



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

Devon and Cornwall Motoring offences prosecuted at court

MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

Action Vision Zero Summary

Devon and Cornwall

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Introduction

Action Vision Zero is committed to reducing road danger and traffic harm. This includes increasing the transparency and understanding of how the justice system holds drivers to account for putting others in danger. Here we summarise the court prosecutions and convictions for motoring offences in a police service area over the last five years (2015-2020), with a comparison to England and Wales (E&W). See below for:

- Table 1 Motoring Offences, Prosecutions and Convictions 2015-2020: Devon and Cornwall
- Table 2 Motoring Offences at Court, Bans 2015-2020: Devon and Cornwall
- Table 3 Motoring Offences at Court, Ban Durations 2020: Devon and Cornwall

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 9% to 12,010 and convictions fell by 3% to 11,096, compared to decreases of 20% and 17% in E&W

We are concerned that sober dangerous driving is rarely prosecuted and so have compared it with drink and drug driving below.

- Drink driving prosecutions fell by 15% to 1,023, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose from none to 318, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 19% to 63, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions rose by 13% to 4,695, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions rose by 32% to 299, compared to a 35% decrease in E&W

Driving bans

We have included an analysis of driving bans given in the local police service area. With only 1% of those convicted at court of motoring offences in E&W going to prison, disqualifications are key to removing unsafe drivers from our roads.

But driving bans are mainly used where they are mandatory, e.g. drink/drug driving. Disqualifications are very rarely given to those convicted at court of speeding or careless driving, where they are optional. This is despite these cases being the more serious as most speeding and careless drivers are sanctioned out of court.

- 1,831 sentences (16%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 1,256 (97%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 91 (2.1%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 9 (3%) sentences for careless driving included a ban, compared to 5% in E&W
- Bans given were 6 months or less for 99% of speeding and 56% of careless driving bans

Action Vision Zero calls

1. Dangerous driving and careless driving to be police priorities. This would result in more detections, as seen by drink and drug driving, which are already police priorities.
2. More unsafe unimpaired drivers to be banned. This should include those summoned to court for extreme speeding (too high for a Fixed Penalty Notice or National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme), and for durations similar to drink/drug driving. Likewise more of the serious cases of careless driving should result in more and longer bans.

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2020>

Table 1 Motoring Offences, Prosecutions and Convictions 2015-2020: Devon and Cornwall

	Prosecutions						5 year change	Convictions						5 year change
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
01. Causing death by dangerous driving	4	7	4	6	5	3	-25%	1	3	6	3	4	3	200%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	2	0	0	3	0		1	3	1	0	3	1	0%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	5	5	7	5	4	3	-40%	5	6	4	6	4	1	-80%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug														
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	0	0	0	0	0								
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	0	0	0	0	0	0								
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	9	7	10	13	11	15	67%	3	6	6	15	12	12	300%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified								0	0	0	0	0	1	
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0	0	0	1	0		0	0	0	0	0	1	
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	3	1	1	1	1	3	0%	0	0	0	1	1	2	
10. Dangerous driving	53	32	43	52	65	63	19%	44	35	39	44	57	52	18%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,206	1,176	1,116	1,171	1,252	1,023	-15%	1,173	1,151	1,101	1,147	1,227	999	-15%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	0	22	16	65	208	318		0	22	15	63	202	304	
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	196	268	258	311	358	312	59%	172	242	212	271	292	250	45%
13a. Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused death														
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	153	151	177	138	201	123	-20%	129	127	167	129	180	110	-15%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	227	291	255	293	332	299	32%	208	270	239	280	305	276	33%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	99	105	105	84	91	84	-15%	89	86	87	77	77	76	-15%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	100	90	84	71	69	64	-36%	95	86	61	63	55	49	-48%
18. Driving licence related offences	296	361	348	280	341	363	23%	270	332	322	274	321	346	28%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	2,726	3,044	2,090	2,013	2,382	2,184	-20%	2,110	2,515	1,803	1,684	2,038	1,982	-6%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	2,215	2,926	227	340	318	110	-95%	1,731	2,479	117	195	145	41	-98%
21. Work record and employment offences	16	32	14	5	8	5	-69%	14	29	14	5	7	5	-64%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	6	4	3	6	11	0	-100%	3	3	2	6	10	0	-100%
23. Defective vehicle parts	83	125	80	88	121	102	23%	72	121	70	85	113	93	29%
24. Vehicle test offences	75	94	76	85	92	75	0%	64	83	69	82	84	70	9%
25. Speed limit offences	4,166	5,064	3,650	4,080	5,444	4,695	13%	3,876	4,674	3,389	3,813	5,094	4,406	14%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	218	199	279	214	40	54	-75%	200	184	270	207	35	48	-76%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	1,170	2,002	1,415	1,703	2,206	2,061	76%	1,040	1,875	1,300	1,555	2,061	1,923	85%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	213	144	95	68	74	51	-76%	196	128	89	63	70	45	-77%
Total	13,239	16,152	10,353	11,092	13,638	12,010	-9%	11,496	14,460	9,384	10,068	12,397	11,096	-3%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Devon and Cornwall

	Bans						5 year change	Bans as % of Sentenced				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
01. Causing death by dangerous driving	1	3	6	3	4	3	2	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	1	3	1		3	1	0	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	5	5	4	5	2	1	-4	100%	83%	100%	83%	67%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug					1							100%
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers												
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified												
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking												
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	4	5	5	12	9	7	3	100%	83%	83%	86%	82%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified					1	1						64%
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving						1						100%
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment												
10. Dangerous driving	38	32	43	43	52	53	15	88%	91%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,094	1,107	1,043	1,090	1,201	959	-135	93%	96%	95%	95%	98%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit			11	0	35	193	297		50%	0%	55%	96%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	125	184	145	212	237	185	60	73%	76%	69%	78%	81%
13a. Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused death												74%
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	0	1	1	0	0	4	4	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	21	21	24	20	23	9	-12	10%	8%	10%	7%	8%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	14	14	16	16	12	11	-3	16%	16%	18%	21%	15%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	31	40	21	23	27	28	-3	32%	48%	34%	36%	51%
18. Driving licence related offences	55	71	103	99	108	115	60	20%	21%	32%	36%	33%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	20	37	46	42	30	45	25	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
21. Work record and employment offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
23. Defective vehicle parts	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	2.4%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences												1.1%
25. Speed limit offences	77	123	102	111	94	91	14	2.0%	2.6%	3.0%	2.9%	1.8%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	5	7	6	6	12	17	12	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0.0%	1.6%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	1,492	1,667	1,569	1,719	2,008	1,831	339	13%	12%	17%	17%	16%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Devon and Cornwall

			Penalty points										Until driving test		Unknown				
			Life	10 years and less than life	5 years and less than 10 years	4 years and less than 5 years	3 years	2 years and less than 3 years	Over 3 years and less than 4 years	Over 4 years and less than 5 years	5 years and less than 10 years	10 years and less than life	Life	Unknown					
01. Causing death by dangerous driving												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 1 0	0 0 0				
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
10. Dangerous driving												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving death												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
18. Driving licence related offences												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
19. Vehicle insurance offences												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
21. Work record and employment offences												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
23. Defective vehicle parts												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
24. Vehicle test offences												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
25. Speed limit offences												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences												0 0 0	0 0 0	3 0 0	0 0 0				
Total				9,278	1,831	162	39	22	391	758	176	122	69	31	5	2	0	47	7

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool