

ROADS POLICING: TACKLING THE PRIORITY OFFENCES

Priority offences

Police have limited resources. They do not have the capacity to detect and sanction all motoring offences. Action Vision Zero thinks the priority should be on those offences which pose harm to others, especially those road users more vulnerable. Our four priority offences are:

- Speeding
- Careless Driving
- Mobile phone use
- Uninsured vehicles

See the table below for data on the total number of officer detected offences and how many were these priority offences for each police service in England and Wales in 2019. We have identified officer detected offences as those reported by the Home Office as 'non camera' detected speed limit offences and 'driver present' for the other three offences (Note: the Home Office uses this classification and does not provide data on non camera detected for the other three offences).

Home Office reported officer detected sanctions, England and Wales (2019)

	KSI adjusted	AVZ key offences				Other offences	Total	AVZ key offences	
		Speed limit	Careless driving	Mobile phone use	Uninsured vehicles			no.	%
Avon and Somerset	559	491	293	431	1,065	2,335	4,615	2,280	49%
Bedfordshire	309	203	118	252	1,604	1,811	3,988	2,177	55%
Cambridgeshire	456	609	184	406	1,734	2,176	5,109	2,933	57%
Cheshire	448	2,319	1,042	977	1,784	3,627	9,749	6,122	63%
City of London	66	141	110	88	204	850	1,393	543	39%
Cleveland	235	540	104	180	512	812	2,148	1,336	62%
Cumbria	327	389	156	373	392	1,058	2,368	1,310	55%
Derbyshire	569	759	188	347	786	1,080	3,160	2,080	66%
Devon and Cornwall	841	1,043	262	737	2,352	2,938	7,332	4,394	60%
Dorset	456	1,695	195	237	647	1,499	4,273	2,774	65%
Durham	302	2,337	113	321	521	1,140	4,432	3,292	74%
Dyfed-Powys	507	536	4	103	396	1,201	2,240	1,039	46%
Essex	876	5,581	3,342	1,632	1,879	13,618	26,052	12,434	48%
Gloucestershire	317	235	89	209	357	533	1,423	890	63%
Greater Manchester	990	545	790	1,221	1,473	5,463	9,492	4,029	42%
Gwent	284	76	94	167	531	732	1,600	868	54%
Hampshire	1407	1,928	482	674	1,614	3,225	7,923	4,698	59%
Hertfordshire	420	797	432	537	1,962	4,017	7,745	3,728	48%
Humberside	578	2,170	383	424	1,967	4,560	9,504	4,944	52%
Kent	886	1,498	794	1,098	1,556	6,215	11,161	4,946	44%
Lancashire	1044	722	311	405	2,267	4,870	8,575	3,705	43%
Leicestershire	421	373	90	331	1,972	2,053	4,819	2,766	57%
Lincolnshire	741	1,456	93	451	1,071	1,329	4,400	3,071	70%
Merseyside	677	3,396	349	1,306	1,894	9,591	16,536	6,945	42%
Metropolitan Police	3840	12,002	2,587	4,231	17,603	44,254	80,677	36,423	45%
Norfolk and Suffolk	907	6,329	402	1,111	2,670	7,068	17,580	10,512	60%
North Wales	457	1,976	118	241	890	2,042	5,267	3,225	61%
North Yorkshire	534	779	272	209	457	2,932	4,649	1,717	37%
Northamptonshire	463	201	252	133	1,484	1,338	3,408	2,070	61%
Northumbria	600	349	134	272	193	389	1,337	948	71%
Nottinghamshire	675	333	301	412	1,935	1,684	4,665	2,981	64%
South Wales	372	194	45	272	9	689	1,209	520	43%
South Yorkshire	977	309	119	317	1,150	2,306	4,201	1,895	45%
Staffordshire	284	1,106	408	618	1,871	1,934	5,937	4,003	67%
Surrey	740	850	222	371	606	2,180	4,229	2,049	48%
Sussex	1192	926	177	326	798	1,666	3,893	2,227	57%
Thames Valley	966	2,373	611	921	2,442	3,175	9,522	6,347	67%
Warwickshire	316	434	204	345	884	898	2,765	1,867	68%
West Mercia	517	751	459	843	1,023	1,818	4,894	3,076	63%
West Midlands	980	1,684	425	705	2,032	4,828	9,674	4,846	50%
West Yorkshire	1152	2,661	1,000	1,751	3,445	12,250	21,107	8,857	42%
Wiltshire	432	565	95	218	488	1,166	2,532	1,366	54%
England and Wales	29117	63,661	17,849	26,203	70,520	169,350	347,583	178,233	51%

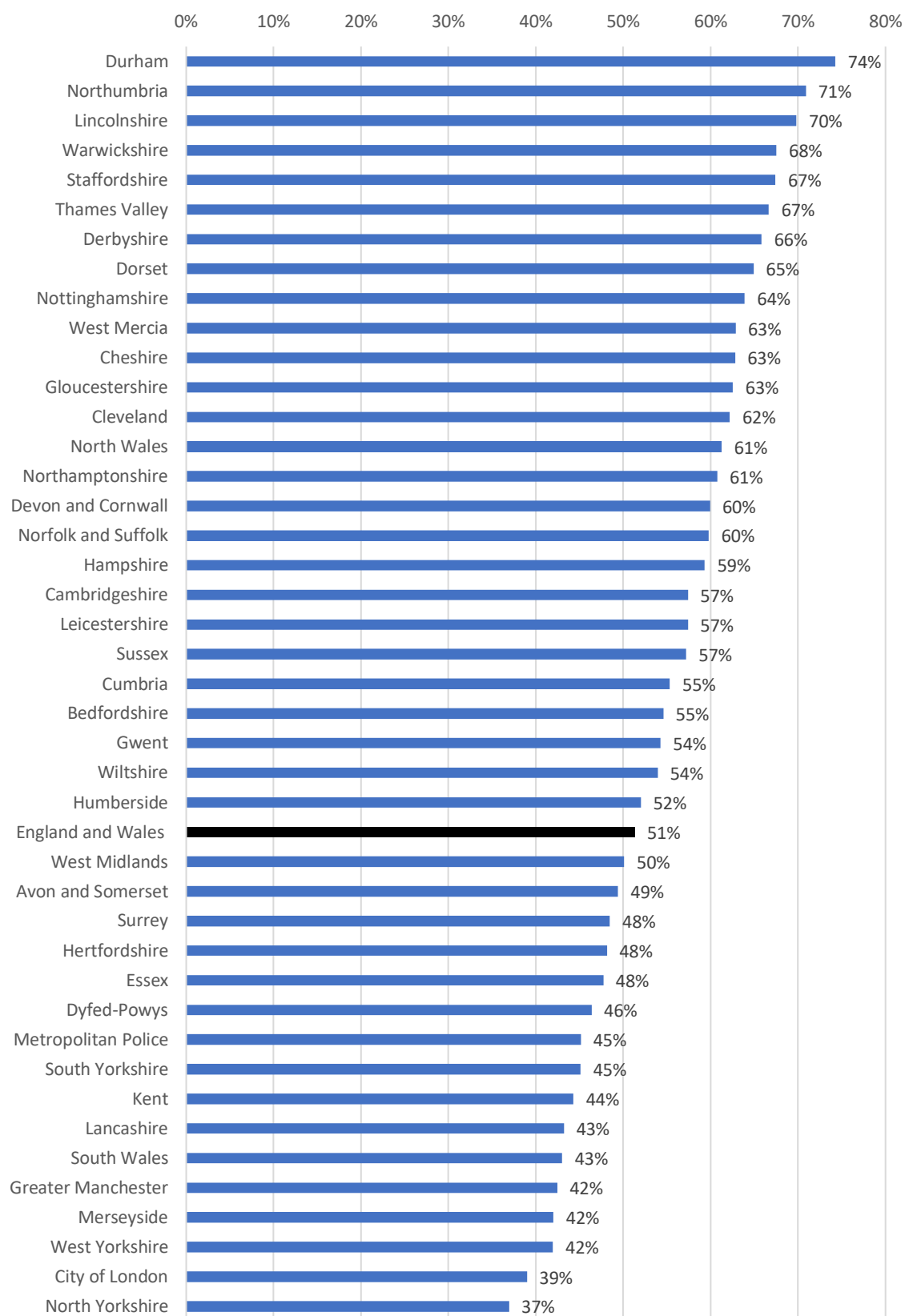
Note: excluding cancelled offences. Officer detected offences are non-camera detected speed limit offences and 'driver present' with careless driving, mobile phone use and uninsured vehicles.

Home Office (2020) Police powers and procedures, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2020, Fixed penalty notices for motoring offences statistics data tables: police powers and procedures year ending 31 March 2020

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/929088/fixed-penalty-notices-police-powers-procedures-mar20-tables.ods

The graph below shows the percent of officer detected sanctions reported by the Home Officer that were on the priority offences (speeding, careless driving, mobile phone use, and uninsured vehicles). With a national average of 51%, this ranges from a low of 37% in North Yorkshire to a high of 74% in Durham.

Percent of Home Office reported officer detected sanctions which were key offences, 2019



Source: Home Office (2020)