

England & Wales
Motoring offences prosecuted at court

MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

Action Vision Zero Summary

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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 England & Wales over the last five years (2015-2020). See below for:

Table 1 Motoring Offences, Prosecutions and Convictions 2015-2020: England & Wales

Table 2 Motoring Offences at Court, Bans 2015-2020: England & Wales

Table 3 Motoring Offences at Court, Ban Durations 2020: England & Wales

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 20% to 515,758 and convictions fell by 17% to 462,744

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 26% to 28,483

Drug driving prosecutions rose by 837% to 13,732

Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 11% to 3,772

Speeding prosecutions fell to 7% to 167,593

Careless driving prosecutions fell by 35% to 9,763

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.

60,239 sentences (13%) resulted in a ban

Sentences for drink/drug driving included 39,475 (96%) bans, with almost all for a year or longer

2,846 (1.9%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban

442 (5%) sentences for careless driving included a ban

Bans given were 6 months or less for 99% of speeding and 59% 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:England & Wales

	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	188	229	225	215	222	184	-2%	122	157	191	157	174	154	26%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	23	20	26	15	11	12	-48%	21	32	22	21	19	19	-10%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	201	215	237	167	190	167	-17%	176	225	189	187	152	118	-33%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug		2	5	6	8	6								
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	2	5	6	7		1	-50%	2	5	3	7	5	2	0%
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified		2	2		3	1		0	0	0	0	2	1	
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	5	3	2	9	5	4	-20%	2	0	0	3	3	1	-50%
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	273	340	402	391	355	373	37%	265	311	369	359	349	317	20%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	2	3	3	7	3	2	0%	2	3	3	6	3	4	100%
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	5	8	6	3	2	7	40%	5	8	5	4	4	11	120%
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	93	93	75	58	54	57	-39%	64	57	50	31	43	30	-53%
10. Dangerous driving	3,394	3,756	3,849	3,774	3,850	3,772	11%	3,301	3,801	3,807	3,634	3,789	3,547	7%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	38,663	37,544	34,628	34,534	35,568	28,483	-26%	37,578	36,550	33,829	33,634	34,713	27,752	-26%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	1,465	5,109	5,368	10,215	12,163	13,732	837%	1,440	4,924	5,078	9,687	11,614	13,326	825%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	9,916	10,580	10,161	10,150	11,402	9,408	-5%	8,428	8,925	8,622	8,671	9,541	7,756	-8%
13a. Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused death				1										
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	17,586	12,853	13,418	13,499	11,402	4,884	-72%	16,093	11,961	12,349	11,901	9,391	4,073	-75%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	14,946	14,732	13,287	12,257	12,276	9,763	-35%	12,497	12,169	11,357	10,383	10,437	8,145	-35%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	4,802	4,804	4,344	3,695	3,553	2,467	-49%	3,842	3,744	3,441	2,912	2,820	1,899	-51%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	6,550	6,223	5,506	4,611	4,099	3,133	-52%	5,146	4,948	4,441	3,601	3,196	2,306	-55%
18. Driving licence related offences	16,888	16,736	16,338	16,001	15,941	13,970	-17%	14,980	15,335	15,038	14,738	14,737	12,905	-14%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	152,266	155,960	163,609	168,964	159,371	105,223	-31%	123,377	133,158	143,215	149,299	140,616	94,861	-23%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	63,833	77,124	92,343	100,021	104,182	35,572	-44%	48,843	64,578	82,350	89,686	93,260	30,843	-37%
21. Work record and employment offences	709	562	545	360	238	145	-80%	655	518	521	340	221	112	-83%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	308	280	286	347	403	338	10%	257	233	249	291	319	213	-17%
23. Defective vehicle parts	6,392	5,913	4,825	4,874	5,193	4,651	-27%	5,736	5,447	4,435	4,466	4,774	4,284	-25%
24. Vehicle test offences	3,154	5,100	4,142	3,990	4,424	3,908	24%	2,651	4,548	3,769	3,668	4,036	3,676	39%
25. Speed limit offences	179,883	183,213	176,441	189,109	200,513	167,593	-7%	166,696	167,976	159,869	168,965	175,465	150,093	-10%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	23,265	23,388	22,582	21,585	16,975	17,245	-26%	21,282	21,352	20,550	19,489	14,723	15,238	-28%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	84,741	89,141	88,643	93,394	95,881	82,078	-3%	73,321	78,143	79,033	83,731	84,744	73,202	0%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	16,166	16,461	12,861	12,127	13,153	8,579	-47%	13,784	14,088	11,245	11,008	11,858	7,856	-43%
Total	645,719	670,399	674,165	704,386	711,440	515,758	-20%	560,566	593,196	604,030	630,879	631,008	462,744	-17%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: England & Wales

	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	121	154	191	157	173	154	33	99%	98%	100%	100%	99%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	21	32	22	21	19	19	-2	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	137	190	161	162	135	103	-34	79%	84%	86%	88%	91%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug												86%
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	1	2	3	5	6	2	1	50%	40%	100%	63%	100%
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified	0	0	0	0	2	1	1					100%
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	2	0	0	2	2	1	-1	100%			100%	67%
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	217	252	306	304	305	268	51	81%	84%	85%	85%	85%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	2	1	2	4	4	7	5	100%	50%	67%	100%	80%
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	20%	25%	20%	50%	50%
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	2	0	4	1	4	4	2	3%	0%	9%	3%	10%
10. Dangerous driving	3,076	3,536	3,826	3,638	3,890	3,454	378	92%	92%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	34,986	35,045	32,316	32,280	33,286	26,540	-8446	93%	96%	95%	96%	96%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	1,422	1,994	61	5,598	11,247	12,935	11513	99%	40%	1%	58%	96%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	6,149	6,720	6,306	6,364	6,954	5,618	-531	73%	75%	73%	73%	72%
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	33	22	23	1	0	13	-20	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	776	857	793	773	678	442	-334	6%	7%	7%	7%	6%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	446	509	498	531	510	384	-62	12%	14%	14%	18%	18%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	1,934	1,962	1,755	1,445	1,378	1,015	-919	37%	39%	39%	40%	42%
18. Driving licence related offences	3,573	4,446	4,792	5,085	5,605	4,652	1079	24%	29%	32%	34%	38%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	2,505	2,472	2,579	2,329	2,057	1,471	-1034	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences												
21. Work record and employment offences												
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	4	3	6	3	2	3	-1	1.6%	1.3%	2.4%	1.0%	0.6%
23. Defective vehicle parts	34	20	19	22	17	23	-11	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%
24. Vehicle test offences	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
25. Speed limit offences	4,267	4,163	3,999	4,206	3,994	2,846	-1421	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.3%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	213	149	146	174	226	92	-121	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	1.5%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	215	279	274	230	251	187	-28	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	12	12	15	5	8	3	-9	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Total	60,149	62,822	58,099	63,342	70,756	60,239	90	11%	11%	10%	10%	13%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: England & Wales

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool