



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

Merseyside Motoring offences prosecuted at court

MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

Action Vision Zero Summary

Merseyside

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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: Merseyside
- Table 2 Motoring Offences at Court, Bans 2015-2020: Merseyside
- Table 3 Motoring Offences at Court, Ban Durations 2020: Merseyside

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions rose by 21% to 16,845 and convictions rose by 23% to 15,409, 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 24% to 646, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 1,104% to 963, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions fell by 1% to 121, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions rose by 35% to 5,651, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions rose by 8% to 224, 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.

- 2,202 sentences (14%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 1,527 (98%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 47 (0.9%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 11 (5%) sentences for careless driving included a ban, compared to 5% in E&W
- Bans given were 6 months or less for 100% of speeding and 82% 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: Merseyside

	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	8	4	5	6	2	3	-63%	4	3	5	4	3	4	0%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	0	0	0	1	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	1	
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	1	6	2	1	5	3	200%	3	2	2	2	1	3	0%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug	0	0	1	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	0	0	1	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	2	0	0	0	0	0	-100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	5	11	13	10	10	12	140%	6	11	13	11	8	10	67%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified														
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving														
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	2	2	1	2	1	0	-100%	2	1	0	2	1	0	-100%
10. Dangerous driving	122	147	108	127	111	121	-1%	113	137	110	126	116	114	1%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	847	838	797	895	881	646	-24%	828	829	783	872	871	624	-25%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	80	306	470	860	990	963	1104%	77	301	463	845	968	942	1123%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	234	267	254	255	363	272	16%	194	245	231	233	321	244	26%
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	614	617	378	237	256	190	-69%	584	583	354	222	221	168	-71%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	207	258	260	221	222	224	8%	186	216	234	202	202	202	9%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	92	84	121	72	36	62	-33%	71	77	110	69	33	53	-25%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	176	163	166	166	108	85	-52%	165	143	148	134	103	72	-56%
18. Driving licence related offences	445	547	597	459	528	442	-1%	406	529	572	435	510	420	3%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	2,478	2,707	3,004	2,486	2,192	2,184	-12%	2,035	2,376	2,778	2,350	2,076	2,066	2%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	1,310	1,609	190	68	100	77	-94%	1,006	1,303	134	62	90	68	-93%
21. Work record and employment offences	15	10	6	2	4	2	-87%	14	8	7	2	3	2	-86%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	5	6	7	9	8	5	0%	4	5	7	7	6	4	0%
23. Defective vehicle parts	179	200	205	195	199	206	15%	164	190	194	181	182	194	18%
24. Vehicle test offences	281	521	744	566	563	422	50%	260	494	717	542	544	400	54%
25. Speed limit offences	4,184	8,000	9,040	5,804	5,788	5,651	35%	4,049	7,393	7,958	5,061	5,077	5,014	24%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	640	1,156	833	477	358	652	2%	600	1,073	722	411	282	560	-7%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	1,277	4,082	3,766	3,343	3,837	4,018	215%	1,093	3,733	3,353	2,941	3,315	3,666	235%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	763	679	814	710	627	604	-21%	708	646	769	672	585	578	-18%
Total	13,967	22,220	21,782	16,973	17,189	16,845	21%	12,572	20,298	19,664	15,386	15,519	15,409	23%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Merseyside

	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	4	3	5	4	3	4	0	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs						1						100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	3	2	1	2	1	2	-1	100%	100%	50%	100%	100%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug					1							67%
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers												100%
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified												
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking												
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	7	9	9	11	10	7	0	100%	82%	82%	92%	100%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified					1							78%
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving												100%
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment												
10. Dangerous driving	109	122	111	124	130	105	-4	97%	92%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	781	793	734	826	813	600	-181	94%	96%	94%	95%	93%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	76	112	6	492	942	927	851	97%	37%	1%	58%	97%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	156	192	184	179	237	196	40	80%	78%	80%	76%	74%
13a. Fail to give permission for a laboratory test on a blood specimen having caused death												79%
14. Using or causing others to use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving	2	1	0	0	0	0	-2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	7	11	10	13	13	11	4	4%	5%	4%	6%	6%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	17	15	18	21	8	13	-4	24%	19%	16%	30%	24%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	83	71	80	56	42	45	-38	51%	48%	54%	41%	41%
18. Driving licence related offences	68	100	126	139	176	151	83	17%	19%	22%	32%	34%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	31	25	31	44	38	82	51	2%	1%	1%	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	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%
23. Defective vehicle parts	1	0	1	1	0	0	-1	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%
24. Vehicle test offences												
25. Speed limit offences	46	58	61	77	70	47	1	1.1%	0.8%	0.8%	1.5%	1.4%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	3	8	8	4	3	8	5	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	1,394	1,523	1,386	1,993	2,488	2,202	808	11%	8%	7%	13%	16%
												14%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Merseyside

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool