



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

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

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions fell by 49% to 4,487 and convictions fell by 48% to 4,048, 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 33% to 535, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 513% to 325, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 18% to 46, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 54% to 1,318, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 59% to 121, 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.

- 1,122 sentences (28%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 813 (98%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 65 (5%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 7 (7%) 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 86% 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: Surrey

	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	2	3	5	2	4	0%	1	2	2	3	0	1	0%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	1	1	0	0	0	0	-100%	0	2	0	0	0	0	-100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	6	1	8	7	1	3	-50%	2	6	1	8	3	0	-100%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug								0	0	0	0	0	0	
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	1	1	4	5	9	9	800%	2	1	0	2	6	4	100%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified														
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	0	0	0	0	0	0								
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	0	0	1	2	1	3		0	0	1	2	0	1	
10. Dangerous driving	39	43	54	44	54	46	18%	27	32	45	43	47	46	70%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	794	725	623	700	688	535	-33%	762	711	602	665	669	518	-32%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	53	100	125	313	309	325	513%	50	94	118	298	293	321	542%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	228	190	177	183	200	149	-35%	200	156	151	144	168	123	-39%
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	303	164	219	179	138	68	-78%	269	151	204	157	125	58	-78%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	296	241	239	199	250	121	-59%	261	224	228	180	228	106	-59%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	72	57	75	72	80	34	-53%	56	52	59	48	57	23	-59%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	52	54	51	41	46	46	-12%	46	45	30	32	33	30	-35%
18. Driving licence related offences	247	196	211	232	251	169	-32%	210	179	193	204	234	155	-26%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	1,494	1,141	1,463	1,419	1,550	930	-38%	1,123	930	1,130	1,107	1,291	764	-32%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	947	518	157	220	250	134	-86%	696	407	100	114	143	63	-91%
21. Work record and employment offences	16	2	1	2	3	1	-94%	16	2	1	1	3	1	-94%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	3	1	3	3	2	1	-67%	3	1	2	2	1	1	-67%
23. Defective vehicle parts	144	87	82	92	65	40	-72%	126	77	72	77	61	36	-71%
24. Vehicle test offences	8	6	8	12	10	2	-75%	7	5	6	9	8	2	-71%
25. Speed limit offences	2,890	3,354	2,249	2,091	2,015	1,318	-54%	2,757	3,268	2,205	2,040	1,962	1,291	-53%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	999	1,066	464	554	575	442	-56%	949	1,030	440	534	555	426	-55%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	108	161	229	140	141	77	-29%	67	136	174	105	107	53	-21%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	109	104	66	71	76	30	-72%	100	98	58	63	67	25	-75%
Total	8,814	8,215	6,512	6,586	6,716	4,487	-49%	7,730	7,609	5,822	5,838	6,061	4,048	-48%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Surrey

	Bans						5 year change	Bans as % of Sentenced					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
01. Causing death by dangerous driving	1	2	2	3		1	0	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs		2						100%	100%				
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	2	4	1	8	3			67%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
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													
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified													
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking													
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	2	0		2	5	4	2	100%	0%		100%	83%	100%
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													
10. Dangerous driving	23	31	42	47	53	40	17	88%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	670	658	573	643	630	500	-170	88%	93%	95%	97%	94%	97%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	50	38	0	187	281	313	263	100%	40%	0%	63%	96%	96%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	138	110	113	98	135	82	-56	69%	71%	74%	68%	80%	67%
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	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	12	14	16	7	8	7	-5	5%	6%	7%	4%	4%	7%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	6	2	5	6	8	7	1	11%	4%	8%	13%	14%	30%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	14	16	10	11	12	14	0	30%	35%	34%	35%	38%	47%
18. Driving licence related offences	38	47	71	78	77	62	24	18%	27%	37%	38%	33%	40%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	21	28	19	23	49	12	-9	2%	3%	2%	2%	4%	2%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences													
21. Work record and employment offences													
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records													
23. Defective vehicle parts	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0.8%	1.3%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	141	121	54	180	193	65	-76	5.1%	3.7%	2.4%	8.8%	9.8%	5.0%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	38	23	0	19	32	13	-25	4.0%	2.2%	0.0%	3.6%	5.8%	3.1%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.9%	1.9%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.0%	1.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	1,157	1,098	910	1,312	1,487	1,122	-35	15%	14%	16%	22%	25%	28%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Surrey

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool