



ACTION VISION ZERO

Supporting campaigns to end road danger and traffic harm

Avon and Somerset Motoring offences prosecuted at court

MoJ Criminal justice statistics (2015-2020)

Action Vision Zero Summary

Avon and Somerset

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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: Avon and Somerset
- Table 2 Motoring Offences at Court, Bans 2015-2020: Avon and Somerset
- Table 3 Motoring Offences at Court, Ban Durations 2020: Avon and Somerset

Court prosecutions and convictions (2015-2020)

Total prosecutions rose by 8% to 24,541 and convictions rose by 10% to 21,486, 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 14% to 873, compared to a 26% decrease in E&W
- Drug driving prosecutions rose by 4,360% to 223, compared to an 837% increase for E&W
- Dangerous driving prosecutions rose by 7% to 97, compared to an 11% increase in E&W
- Speeding prosecutions fell by 28% to 5,319, compared to a 7% decrease in E&W
- Careless driving prosecutions fell by 30% to 283, 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.

- 1,664 sentences (8%) for motoring offences resulted in a ban, compared to 13% E&W
- Sentences for drink/drug driving included 1,024 (97%) bans, all for a year or longer
- 95 (2.2%) sentences for speeding resulted in a ban, compared to 2% in E&W
- 18 (7%) sentences for careless driving included a ban, compared to 5% in E&W
- Bans given were 6 months or less for 95% of speeding and 67% 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: Avon and Somerset

	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	7	3	10	6	4	-50%	6	3	7	6	5	3	-50%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	2	2	1	0	1	0	-100%	1	5	2	1	2	0	-100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	7	0	6	2	5	4	-43%	7	3	5	3	2	4	-43%
03a. Causing death by driving without due care / consideration while over prescribed limit - specified controlled drug	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	
04. Causing death by driving unlicensed or uninsured drivers	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
04a. Causing death by driving whilst disqualified														
05. Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	1	0	0	0	0	0	-100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	
06. Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	5	9	5	10	7	2	-60%	3	6	2	7	8	2	-33%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified	0	0	0	0	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	1	
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving	1	0	1	0	1	0	-100%	0	0	0	0	1	1	
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	6	5	2	1	1	3	-50%	5	5	2	1	1	2	-60%
10. Dangerous driving	91	116	119	118	109	97	7%	101	103	113	115	112	88	-13%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	1,010	953	947	1,018	1,072	873	-14%	983	936	934	994	1,049	846	-14%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	5	37	49	101	142	223	4360%	5	36	45	96	138	220	4300%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	298	286	279	270	309	286	-4%	256	233	226	221	257	233	-9%
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	157	60	84	114	137	84	-46%	141	56	79	104	127	71	-50%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	402	298	302	297	285	283	-30%	339	265	286	275	271	254	-25%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	91	107	88	70	94	89	-2%	71	92	72	60	87	76	7%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	140	157	133	91	88	81	-42%	114	131	125	77	70	60	-47%
18. Driving licence related offences	289	315	331	396	369	378	31%	267	302	308	363	332	353	32%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	3,626	3,171	10,109	10,948	12,133	4,904	35%	2,753	2,519	9,191	9,816	11,003	4,400	60%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	2,628	2,382	11,724	14,274	12,512	4,995	90%	1,973	1,969	10,967	12,986	11,596	4,520	129%
21. Work record and employment offences	41	23	57	22	11	2	-95%	38	23	51	21	10	1	-97%
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	14	5	14	25	10	7	-50%	11	5	18	24	9	5	-55%
23. Defective vehicle parts	71	58	67	61	71	97	37%	61	53	61	59	64	92	51%
24. Vehicle test offences	46	34	41	49	33	18	-61%	39	27	40	44	31	16	-59%
25. Speed limit offences	7,404	6,769	6,565	7,861	6,531	5,319	-28%	6,598	6,081	5,844	7,061	5,620	4,348	-34%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	1,427	551	1,706	1,400	336	1,244	-13%	1,340	484	1,571	1,316	311	1,100	-18%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	4,543	3,096	3,094	3,337	3,825	5,479	21%	4,194	2,828	2,649	2,973	3,188	4,740	13%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	433	939	1,108	114	93	67	-85%	312	667	736	97	83	50	-84%
Total	22,746	19,380	36,835	40,589	38,181	24,541	8%	19,618	16,832	33,334	36,720	34,377	21,486	10%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 2 Motoring Offences, Bans 2015-2020: Avon and Somerset

	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	6	2	7	6	5	3	-3	100%	67%	100%	100%	100%	100%
02. Causing death by careless driving under influence of drink or drugs	1	5	2	1	2			100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
03. Causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving	3	3	4	3	2	3	0	43%	100%	80%	100%	100%	75%
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	4	2	5	5	1	-1	67%	80%	67%	83%	56%	100%
07. Cause serious injury by driving whilst disqualified						1							100%
08. Causing bodily harm by furious driving													
09. Causing danger by interfering with a vehicle, road or traffic equipment	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%
10. Dangerous driving	101	88	115	118	114	88	-13	94%	87%	100%	100%	100%	100%
11. Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	933	900	901	958	1,009	811	-122	95%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%
12. Drive a motor vehicle with the proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit	5	15	0	51	131	213	208	100%	42%	0%	53%	92%	96%
13. Other offences related to drink or drug driving	191	182	171	160	186	167	-24	74%	78%	75%	72%	72%	73%
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	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. Careless driving offences (excl. mobile phone offences)	35	24	27	24	23	18	-17	10%	9%	9%	9%	8%	7%
16. Failing to stop or provide information after accident	15	11	16	19	27	20	5	21%	12%	22%	32%	31%	26%
17. Theft of a motor vehicle / aggravated vehicle taking	40	41	57	29	33	34	-6	34%	31%	44%	37%	44%	54%
18. Driving licence related offences	87	101	128	148	142	149	62	33%	33%	41%	41%	42%	42%
19. Vehicle insurance offences	122	67	59	66	67	48	-74	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%
20. Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
21. Work record and employment offences													
22. Fraud, forgery, etc. associated with vehicle or driver records													
23. Defective vehicle parts	1	0	2	1	0	4	3	1.6%	0.0%	3.3%	1.7%	0.0%	4.3%
24. Vehicle test offences													
25. Speed limit offences	161	82	120	106	96	95	-66	2.4%	1.3%	2.1%	1.5%	1.7%	2.2%
26. Neglecting road regulations (other than speeding)	10	1	6	6	0	2	-8	0.7%	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%
27. Failing to supply information as to identity of driver when required	13	7	5	6	8	6	-7	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
28. Miscellaneous (other) motoring offences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	1,727	1,533	1,622	1,707	1,850	1,664	-63	9%	9%	5%	5%	5%	8%

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool

Table 3 Motoring Offences, Ban Durations 2020: Avon and Somerset

Source: MoJ (2021) Motoring data tool