



## Motoring offences and breath test statistics

England and Wales 2000

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### MAIN POINTS

#### Motoring offences

- The number of motoring offences dealt with by official police action or penalty charge notice in 2000 was 10.0 million, up six per cent on 1999 and the highest number recorded (paragraph 2).
- The number of offences dealt with by fixed penalty notice issued by the police (including traffic wardens) in 2000 was 3.1 million, down two per cent on 1999. In addition 4.7 million penalty charge notices were issued by local authority parking attendants in 2000, up 18 per cent (paragraph 2).
- There were 2.1 million court proceedings for motoring offences during 2000, down three per cent on 1999 (paragraph 2).
- Cameras provided evidence for 802,000 offences dealt with in 2000. Overall these cameras provided evidence for 61 per cent of speeding offences dealt with (paragraph 31).

#### Breath tests

- 714,800 screening breath tests were carried out during 2000, seven per cent fewer than in 1999 (paragraph 32).
- The number of positive or refused tests in 2000 rose by one per cent from 94,100 in 1999 to 94,6100 in 2000 (paragraph 33).

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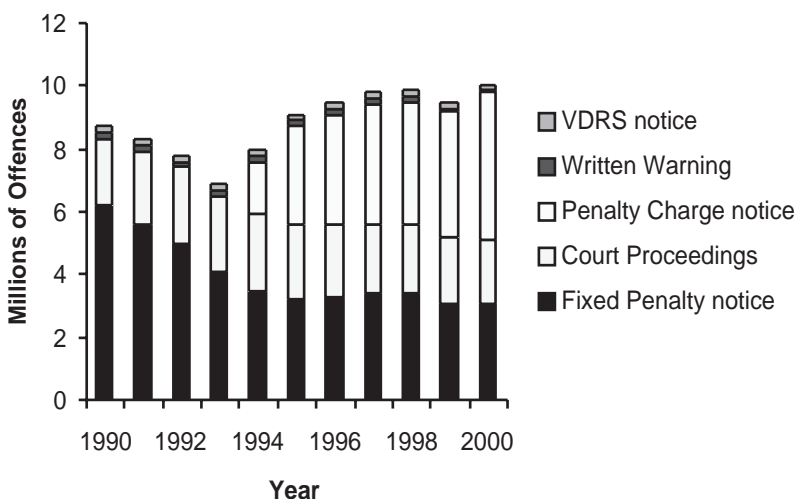
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Figure 1 Motoring offences dealt with by official action



## INTRODUCTION

1. This bulletin contains statistics on motoring offences and breath tests dealt with by the police in England and Wales in 2000 and earlier years. The bulletin also includes statistics on penalty charge notices issued by local authority parking attendants from 1994 - see notes 7 and 11(k)(iii). This bulletin is a record of official action with regard to motoring offences and breath tests, rather than an estimate of the number which take place. More detailed information is provided in the companion volume "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales 2000, Supplementary tables" - see note 22.

## MOTORING OFFENCES

### NUMBER OF OFFENCES DEALT WITH (Tables A, 1 and 10 and Figures 1 and 2).

**Table A** Offences relating to motor vehicles: summary of action taken<sup>(1)</sup>

England and Wales							Millions
Year	Type of action					Total	Vehicles Currently Licensed
	Fixed Penalty Notice	Court proceedings	Penalty Charge Notice	Written Warning	VDRS Notice <sup>(2)</sup>		
1990	6.2	2.1	*	0.2	0.2	8.7	22.9
1991	5.6	2.3	*	0.2	0.2	8.4	22.7
1992	5.0	2.4	*	0.2	0.2	7.9	23.0
1993	4.1	2.4	*	0.2	0.2	6.9	22.5
1994	3.5	2.4	1.7	0.2	0.2	8.1	22.8
1995	3.2	2.4	3.1	0.2	0.2	9.1	22.9
1996	3.3	2.3	3.5	0.2	0.2	9.5	23.7
1997	3.4	2.2	3.8	0.2	0.2	9.8	24.4
1998	3.4	2.2	3.9	0.2	0.2	9.8	25.5
1999	3.1	2.1	4.0	0.1	0.2	9.5	26.2
2000	3.1	2.1	4.7	0.1	0.1	10.0	26.2

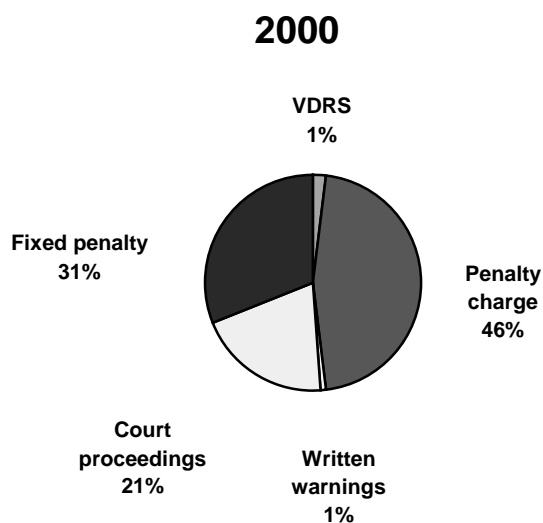
(1) For a fuller description of these figures, see Table 1,

(2) Vehicle defect rectification scheme.

2. The total number of motoring offences dealt with by the police and parking attendants in England and Wales during 2000 was 10,000,000, a rise of 500,000 on 1999 (six per cent). In 2000 4,655,000 (46 per cent) were penalty charge notices issued by local authority parking attendants, up eighteen per cent on 1999 reflecting a growing number of local authorities using these powers (see note 11(k)(iii) for details of local authorities concerned). 3,084,000 of the offences (31 per cent) were dealt with by fixed penalty notices issued by the police (including traffic wardens), down two per cent on 1999. 2,063,000 offences (21 per cent) were dealt with by court proceedings (see note 6), down three per cent on 1999. The remaining offences were dealt with either by written warnings (109,000, one per cent) which were down fifteen per cent on 1999, or vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS) notices complied with (127,000, one per cent), down 24 per cent on 1999.

3. The number of motoring offences dealt with during 2000, at 10.0 million, was the largest number to date. Although it only represents 383 offences per thousand vehicles licensed in 2000, compared with 380 per thousand in 1990. Over the last decade the highest rate was 403 offences per thousand vehicles licensed in 1997.

**Figure 2 Offences dealt with by written warning, VDRS, fixed penalty, penalty charge and court proceedings**



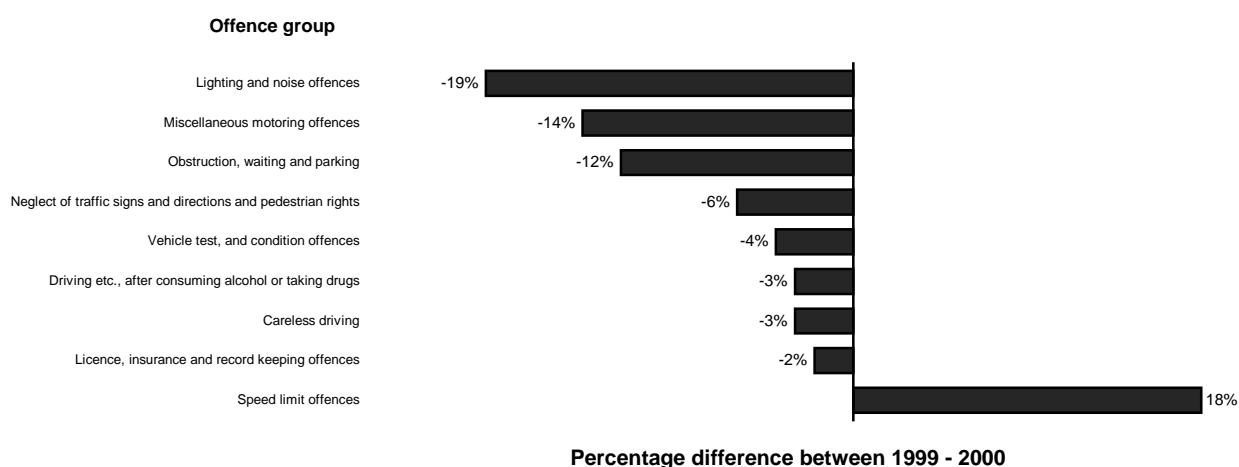
4. Figures by police force for 2000 are given in Table 10. The proportion of offences dealt with by court proceedings varies between forces, from Sussex who used court proceedings for 21 per cent of offences dealt with, to Cumbria and the West Midlands who used court proceedings for 56 per cent. Such variations may reflect some differences in police practice, but local conditions are likely to play a bigger part. For instance, levels of urbanisation will influence how many offences dealt with are for obstruction, waiting and parking.

#### **TYPE OF OFFENCE DEALT WITH (Tables B and 2 and Figure 3)**

5. In 2000 the largest group of offences dealt with were for **obstruction, waiting and parking offences** 6.3 million in all. Of these, 1.6 million were dealt with by official police action, forming the biggest proportion of motoring offences (30 per cent in 2000) dealt with by the police (including traffic wardens). The other 4.7 million offences were dealt with through penalty charge notices issued by local authority parking attendants. For a discussion of the trends in the use of fixed penalties and penalty charge notices for these offences, see paragraphs 15 to 19.

6. The next two largest offence groups dealt with by the police in 2000 were **speed limit offences** and **licence, insurance and record keeping offences** each comprising 1.2 million offences, or 22 per cent of all offences dealt with.

**Figure 3 Offences dealt with by the police, change between 1999 and 2000**



7. Between 1999 and 2000, the number of offences dealt with by the police fell in twelve of the 15 offence groups in Table 2, and increased in two. Figure 3 shows the changes in the largest groups for 1999 and 2000. The most marked change between 1999 and 2000 occurred for **speed limit offences** which were up 18 per cent. These are offences in which camera devices are increasingly being used, and paragraph 31 gives statistics of proceedings and fixed penalties issued where the evidence was provided by these devices. The largest percentage fall in the figures was in relation to offences of **lighting and noise**, down 19 per cent.

8. Table 2 contains figures from 1951 to examine longer term trends. There has, for example, been a steady reduction in the number of offences of **driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs**, from 119,100 in 1990 down to 105,000 in 1994. The number of offences then rose to 112,500 in 1997. Since 1997 the figure has fallen again to 96,300 in 2000.

9. Other offence groups which have shown long term reductions are **careless driving**, (although this did show a small increase between 1996 and 1997), and **accident offences**, both of which were highest in 1981. **Lighting and noise offences** were four times more often subject to police action in 1971 and 1981 than

in 2000. There was however a reversal of the trend in long term reductions for **offences peculiar to motor cycles** which showed a rise of 5 per cent in 2000 from 3,900 in 1999 to 4,100 in 2000.

10. The number of offences of **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** dealt with by official police action has been reducing since 1991, when 95,100 offences were dealt with, down to 50,800 offences in 2000. This accounts for only a minority of such offences recorded by the police but the reduction is consistent with the fall in these offences from 597,500 in 1993 to 350,345 in 2000<sup>(1)</sup>.

11. The number of **licence, insurance and record keeping offences** and **vehicle test and condition offences** dealt with peaked in 1994 at 1,395,000 but since then there have been small reductions each year. However, longer term comparisons like these should be made with caution because of changes in legislation and other enforcement practices which have taken place from time to time. The main legislative changes in recent years are listed in note 11.

#### **THE WAY OFFENCES ARE DEALT WITH (Table B)**

12. Table B shows that 21 per cent of offences were dealt with by court proceedings during 2000 (down from 22 per cent in 1999), whilst 77 per cent were dealt with by fixed penalty notice or penalty charge notice (up from 75 per cent in 1999). There is wide variation between offence types. Nearly all **obstruction and waiting and parking offences** were dealt with by fixed penalty or penalty charge notice, whilst nearly all offences of **driving after consuming alcohol or drugs** were dealt with by court proceedings. Some methods are not available for certain offences. For example, VDRS notices are only available for offences described as **vehicles or parts of vehicles found to be in dangerous or defective condition**, 67 per cent of these offences were dealt with by VDRS notices. Among the offences for which fixed penalty notices are available, 85 per cent of **speed limit offences** were so dealt with in 2000 (up from 81 per cent in 1999). Fixed penalty notices dealt with 78 per cent of offences of **neglect of traffic signs and directions and of**

**pedestrian rights** (the same as in 1999). The detailed figures from which Table B is derived are included in Table 1 of the Supplementary tables (see note 22).

**Table B Motoring offences (proportionally) dealt with by official action <sup>(1)</sup> by offence group**

England and Wales 1999 and 2000											Percentages	
Offence		Court Proceedings		Written Warnings		VDRS Notice		Fixed penalty/ Penalty charge		Total (thousands = 100%)		
		1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	
Causing death or bodily harm	%	100	99	0 <sup>(2)</sup>	1 <sup>(2)</sup>	*	*	*	*	0.5	0.5	
Dangerous driving	%	99	99	1	1	*	*	*	*	9.5	9.2	
Driving etc., after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	%	100	100	0	0	*	*	*	*	99.7	96.3	
Careless driving	%	58	54	15	12	*	*	28	34	97.7	94.8	
Accident offences	%	91	92	9	8	*	*	*	*	29.9	29.0	
Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor Vehicle	%	88	87	12 <sup>(2)</sup>	13 <sup>(2)</sup>	*	*	*	*	56.7	50.8	
Licence, insurance and record keeping Offences	%	92	94	2	2	*	*	6	4	1,227.5	1,201.2	
Vehicle test offences	%	95	96	5	4	*	*	0	0	357.2	348.7	
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	%	25	27	1	1	68	67	5	5	246.5	190.01	
Speed limit offences	%	16	13	2	2	*	*	81	85	1,015.1	1,202.3	
Neglect of traffic signs and directions and pedestrian Rights	%	19	19	3	3	*	*	78	78	253.3	239.3	
Obstruction, waiting and parking Offences	%	0	0	0	0	*	*	100	100	5,791.6	6,274.4	
Lighting and noise Offences	%	43	46	17	13	*	*	40	41	68.8	55.5	
Load offences	%	79	80	6	5	*	*	15	16	21.1	18.6	
Offences peculiar to motor cycles	%	64	65	16	12	*	*	20	23	3.9	4.1	
Miscellaneous	%	24	25	4	4	*	*	72	71	258.1	223.1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>9,537.2</b>	<b>10,037.7</b>	

(1) Police (including traffic wardens) and local authority parking attendants

(2) Cautions data has been included.

#### **WRITTEN WARNINGS AND VDRS NOTICES (Tables B, 3 and 4)**

13. The use of written warnings reached a peak in 1981, when 326,000 were issued. There has been a steady decline since then, although an upturn occurred in 1997. Since then the number of offences dropped rapidly to 109,000 in 2000. Table B above showed that **careless driving, lighting and noise offences** and **offences peculiar to motor cycles** were more likely than other offences to be dealt with by written warning: however Table 3 shows clearly that the actual figures of written warnings were most frequently used for **speed limit offences** (24,000 in 2000, or 22 per cent of all written warnings) with the increase due entirely to the rise in the use of cameras, **licence, insurance and record keeping offences** (23,000 or 21 per cent of written warnings), and for **vehicle test and condition offences** (16,000 or 15 per cent of written warnings).

14. Most forces introduced Vehicle Defect Rectification Schemes during 1986, and up to 1997 approximately 270,000 were issued each year. But since 1997 the use of this scheme has declined and the figure for 2000 of 170,000 issued shows a more significant drop on previous years. Seventy five per cent of VDRS notices were complied with in 2000, slightly down on recent years. Notices not complied with are liable to lead to further action (e.g. court proceedings).

#### **FIXED PENALTY NOTICES AND PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES (Tables C, 5, 6 and 7)**

15. The total number of fixed penalty notices issued by the police (including traffic wardens) fell between 1990 and 1995 before increasing slightly in 1996, 1997 and 1998 when it reached 3,440,000. There was a fall in 1999 to 3,157,000 and again in 2000 to 3,084,000. Decreases were observed for six out of eight of the offence groups shown in Table 5 between 1999 and 2000, the exceptions being: **speed limit offences** (up 24 per cent) and **'Other offences'** (up 16 per cent).

16. **Obstruction, waiting and parking offences** were dealt with both by fixed penalty notices and penalty charge notices. There were 1,595,000 fixed penalty notices issued by the police in 2000, 213,000 or 12 per cent fewer than in 1999. The



falls can be attributed mainly to more local authorities issuing penalty charge notices. 4,655,300 parking offences were dealt with in 2000 (an increase of 18 per cent on 1999) by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. This was first used in 1994 and is provided for under the 1991 Road Traffic Act (see also note 11(k)(iii)).

17. Table C shows that the use of fixed penalties for obstruction, waiting and parking offences in London had been, by 2000, all but superseded by the use of penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. The use of fixed penalty notices for these offences had begun to decline before 1994, in anticipation of penalty charge notices being introduced.

**Table C            Obstruction, waiting and parking offences - fixed penalties and penalty charge notices**

England and Wales	Thousands						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<u>Fixed penalty notices</u>							
Metropolitan and City of London police	583	259	243	162	206	193	197
Other police forces	2,115	2,012	2,040	2,038	1,912	1,615	1,201
Total fixed penalty notices	2,698	2,271	2,282	2,199	2,118	1,808	1,595
<u>Penalty charge notices</u>							
London	1,706	3,148	3,515	3,686	3,733	3,664	4,021
Other local authorities	*	*	8	83	138	292	634
Total penalty charge Notices	1,706	3,148	3,523	3,769	3,872	3,956	4,655
Total dealt with by Either means	4,404	5,418	5,806	5,968	5,990	5,764	6,251

18. A final analysis of results of fixed penalty notices issued in 2000 is not yet complete, this is because there is a time delay in forces receiving final information on outcome ie whether paid after charge certificate served or guilty from adjudication. However, provisional estimates suggest that 77 per cent of the fixed penalty notices issued by the police in 2000 were paid and a fine was automatically registered at court for a further 16 per cent respectively. These rates were the same as in 1999

following a small but steady increase in the number of fixed penalties paid since 1992. Fixed penalties are more likely to be paid if the offence is endorsable. In 2000 95 per cent of fixed penalty notices issued for endorsable offences were paid without further enforcement, 75 per cent (non-endorsable, driver present) and 71 per cent (non-endorsable, driver absent).

19. 47 per cent of penalty charge notices were paid in 2000 without further enforcement, compared with 50 per cent in 1999. In London, 45 per cent were paid in 2000 compared with 49 per cent in 1999. Outside London the figures were around 62 per cent in 2000 and 69 per cent in 1999. The number of penalty charge certificates registered in 2000 arose by 10 per cent to 617,800.

#### **COURT PROCEEDINGS (Tables 8, 9 and 11 - 15)**

20. The number of proceedings at magistrates' courts for offences relating to motor vehicles fell by three per cent between 1999 and 2000 to 2,062,900. Proceedings were most often taken for ***licence, insurance and record keeping offences***, amounting to 1.1 million such offences in 2000, the same as in 1999.

21. **Speed limit offences** and **neglect of traffic signs and directions of pedestrian rights** are the two offence groups for which cameras are used. **Speed limit offences** showed a fall for the first time since 1993 in the number of prosecutions, from 168,000 in 1999 to 154,700 in 2000 down eight per cent. Prosecutions, for offences of ***neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights*** (which includes traffic light offences which can be detected by cameras) continued their fall from 1993 showing a three per cent decrease from 46,900 in 1999 to 45,500 in 2000 (see also paragraph 31).

22. Table 9 shows how many defendants were proceeded against in magistrates' courts where their principal offence was a summary motoring offence. These figures differ from those in Table 8 because a defendant can be proceeded against for more than one offence on each occasion, and also because, for some, the principal offence is not a motoring offence. The table is, however, on the same basis as

Table 6.1 of 'Criminal statistics, England and Wales 2000',<sup>(2)</sup> which allows comparisons to be made with defendants proceeded against for non-motoring offences (see also note 8). Research suggests that groups of offences dealt with together in court generally arise from a single traffic incident (rather than from other events)<sup>(3)</sup>.

23. 66 per cent of all court proceedings for motoring offences resulted in findings of guilt in 2000, the same percentage since 1997. In total there were 1,364,600 findings of guilt in 2000, four per cent fewer than in 1999.

24. Table 12 shows that in 2000 nine in ten of those found guilty of motoring offences were male. The highest percentage of males were recorded for offences such as **causing death or bodily harm** (95 per cent), **dangerous driving** (97 per cent), **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** (96 per cent), **load offences** (97 per cent) and **offences peculiar to motor cycles** (97 per cent). The highest percentages of females were recorded for **obstruction, waiting and parking offences** (22 per cent), **miscellaneous motoring offences** (19 per cent), **careless driving** (16 per cent), **neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights** (15 per cent) and **speed limit offences** (15 per cent). Disproportionate numbers of offenders were aged under 21 for offences of **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** (70 per cent) and for **offences peculiar to motor cycles** (79 per cent) which includes driving or riding on a motor cycle without wearing protective headgear and unlawful pillion riding.

25. In 2000, around 86 per cent of sentences or orders imposed at magistrates' courts were fines (Table 13). By contrast, custodial sentences were the most frequent sentence or order imposed at the Crown Court (69 per cent of sentences) reflecting the relative seriousness of the motoring offences being dealt with. Nevertheless magistrates' courts gave more sentences of immediate custody for motoring offences (33,600) than the Crown Court (7,600). A substantial proportion of proceedings (25 per cent in 2000) result in the offence being 'not separately dealt

with', usually because a sentence or order has been imposed for another offence. This has become much more common since about 1990.

26. The average fine imposed at magistrates' courts during 2000 was £132 (Table 14). When inflation is taken into account, however, there was a fall in real terms of £2, from £100 to £98, for the year 2000 at 1990 prices. The average fines, in 2000, varied from £122 for **careless driving** to £306 for **load offences**.

27. Table 15 shows that more than half the sentences of immediate custody given for motoring offences at all courts were for offences of **driving while disqualified**. **Causing death or bodily harm** was most likely to be dealt with by a custodial sentence – four of five findings of guilt in recent years. Just over half the convictions for **driving while disqualified** attracted sentences of immediate custody, as did 45 per cent of convictions for **dangerous driving**.

#### **DISQUALIFICATIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS (Tables 16 and 17)**

28. During 2000, there were 153,000 disqualifications for specific motoring offences in England and Wales plus 34,000 persons disqualified under the penalty points or 'totting up' system. In 2000 80,000 persons were disqualified for **driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs** a fall of 3,000 from 1999. The number of disqualifications for this offence peaked at 103,000 in 1989 and steadily declined until 1994 when there were small rises each year until 1997, since when the numbers have shown a steady decline.

29. The number of endorsements has been rising steadily since 1993, although this is mainly due to an increase in endorsements imposed following a fixed penalty notice, there having been a slight decrease over the same period in those imposed following court proceedings until 1998, with slight increases in 1999 and 2000.

30. Forty three per cent of disqualifications in 2000 were for more than one year, including 65 per cent of disqualifications for **driving etc. after consuming alcohol**

**or taking drugs.** The proportion disqualified for more than one year for this offence has steadily increased from 55 per cent in 1990.

#### **TRAFFIC CAMERAS (Table D)**

31. In 2000 cameras of all types provided evidence for 802,000 motoring offences, an increase of 46 per cent on 1999. In 2000, 92 per cent of offences were **speeding offences**, with the remainder being **traffic light offences**. Overall, camera devices were used to provide evidence in 2000 for 61 per cent of cases where the police took official action for **speeding offences** and for 28 per cent cases of **neglect of traffic signs and directions and pedestrian rights**, (which includes traffic light offences). The majority of these offences (84 per cent) were dealt with by fixed penalty.

32. Hypothecation, or netting-off, of fine revenue to meet camera costs from speed and traffic signal cameras went live in April 2000 (see note 11(I)). For the seven police force areas (Cleveland, Essex, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Thames Valley and South Wales) selected within England and Wales to be part of the pilot figures show that there has been a 147 per cent increase in the total number of fixed penalties issued for speeding offences detected by cameras (from 99,800 in 1999 to 246,400 in 2000).

**Table D Fixed penalties and prosecutions for offences detected by cameras <sup>(1)</sup>**

England and Wales		Number of offences		
	Year	Fixed penalty <sup>(2)</sup>	Prosecutions	Total
Speeding	1996	212,600	49,600	262,200
	1997	288,600	48,100	336,700
	1998	338,800	65,100	403,800
	1999	423,000	75,600	498,600
	2000	624,300	109,200	733,500
Traffic lights	1996	33,400	19,400	52,800
	1997	34,600	18,800	53,300
	1998	31,800	11,800	43,500
	1999	37,100	14,900	52,000
	2000	52,200	15,900	68,100
All offences	1996	246,000	67,000	312,900
	1997	323,200	66,900	390,000
	1998	370,500	76,800	447,400
	1999	460,100	90,500	550,600
	2000	676,500	125,700	802,200

(1) Automatic cameras until 1998, all camera types for 1999.

(2) Paid, i.e., no further action.

## BREATH TESTS

### SCREENING BREATH TESTS (Table E, Table 18 and Figure 4)

**Table E** Number of screening breath tests by outcome

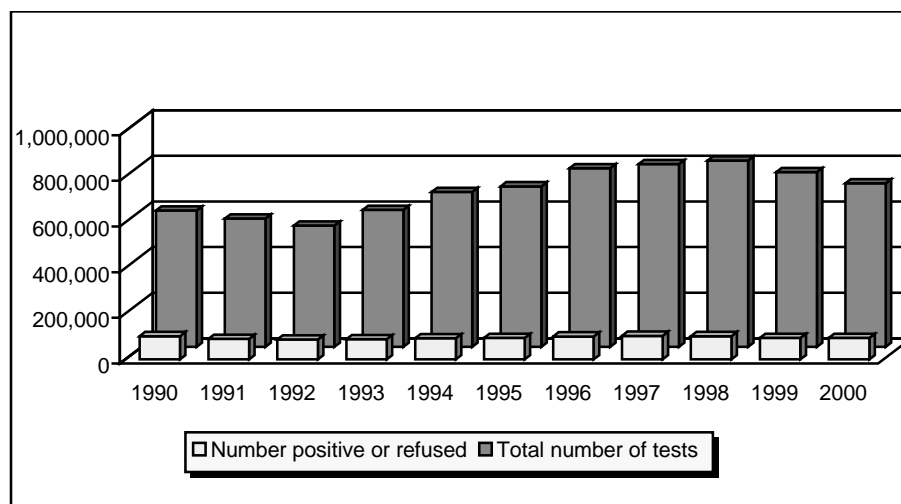
England and Wales	Thousands and percentage changes				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total number of tests	781.1	800.3 <sup>(1)</sup>	815.5	764.5	714.8
Percentage change on Previous year	+11.2	+2.5	+1.9	-6.3	-6.5
Of which positive/refused	100.5	103.5	102.3 <sup>(2)</sup>	94.1	94.6
Percentage change on Previous year	+6.4	+3.0	-1.1	-8.1	+0.5

(1) Total number of tests revised since publication of 1997 bulletin. See note x for details.

(2) Number of positive/refused tests revised since publication of 1998 bulletin. See note x for details.

33. During 2000, 714,800 screening breath tests were carried out by police officers. This is a decrease of seven per cent on the 764,500 screening tests recorded during 1999.

**Figure 4 Screening breath tests by outcome**



34. The number of positive or refused tests was 94,600 in 2000, a rise of just under one per cent from 1999 (94,100). The proportion of tests positive or refused in

2000 was, at 13 per cent, one percentage point higher than in 1999. This proportion has been around 13 per cent since 1995 but has fallen since at least 1979 when 51 per cent of those tested were either positive, refused, or were unable to be tested.

35. The overall reduction in the proportion of drivers testing positive in recent years suggests a continued change in driver behaviour with regard to drinking and driving. Recent figures from the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions support this interpretation. Between 1979 and 2000 the number of people killed or seriously injured in accidents involving illegal alcohol levels declined from 9,940 to 3,050 a reduction of 66 per cent, although the 2000 figure is slightly up on the 2,930 for 1999<sup>(4)</sup>.

#### **SEASONAL VARIATION (Tables 19 and 20)**

36. 15 per cent of all screening tests were conducted during December, which coincides with the regular Christmas campaign against drinking and driving. While the number of screening tests carried out during December was twice the average number carried out in other months, the number of positive or refused tests was only 13 per cent higher than the average for the other months. The proportion of screening tests which were positive or refused during December was eight per cent, which is around half the proportion of tests positive or refused in the other months.

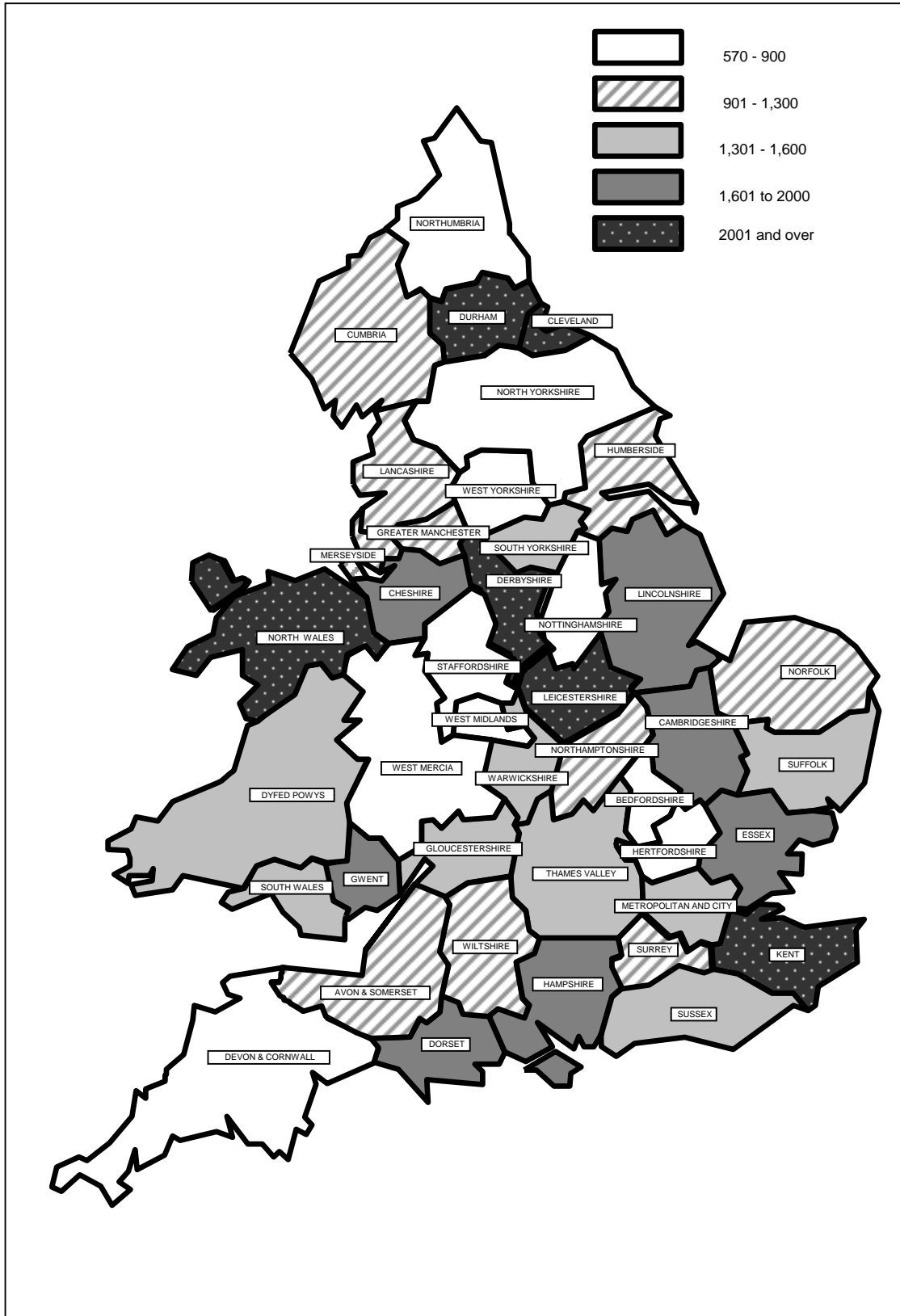
#### **POLICE FORCE AREAS (Table 21, Figures 5 and 6)**

37. Police force areas vary widely in the number of tests carried out per 100,000 population, from 570 in Hertfordshire to 5,340 in Derbyshire. Figure 5 shows details for 2000. Forces with the highest number of tests per 100,000 population were Derbyshire, Cleveland and Durham. The proportion of tests which are positive or refused also varies by force, from three per cent in Derbyshire to 33 per cent in Hertfordshire. Figure 6 shows police force areas by the number of positive or refused tests per 100,000 population in 2000. Forces with the highest rates of positive tests per 100,000 population were Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Thames Valley, Gloucestershire and Northumbria.

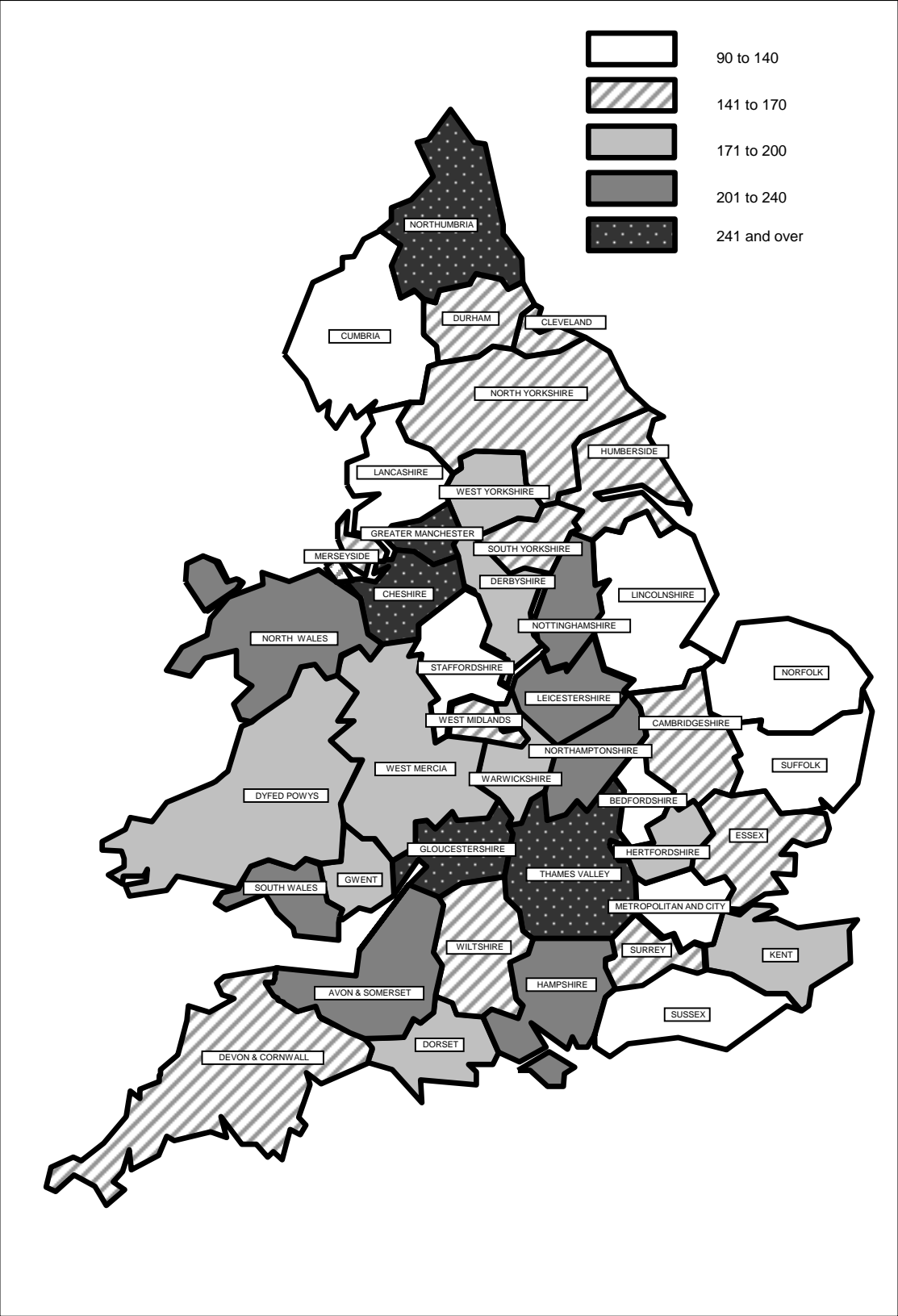


- (1) Source: Unpublished 'Recorded Crime' data, Crime & Criminal Justice Unit (Home Office)
- (2) See Command Paper 5312 'Criminal statistics, England and Wales 2000' (The Stationery Office December 2001)
- (3) See 'The Criminal Histories of Serious Traffic Offenders' by Gerry Rose (Home Office Research Study 206)
- (4) See the DTLR publication 'Road Accidents Great Britain: 2000 – The Casualty Report' (The Stationery Office September 2001)

**Figure 5 Total tests per 100,000 population by police force area 2000**



**Figure 6 Positive/refused tests per 100,000 population by police force 2000**



**Table 1 Summary of action taken for offences relating to motor vehicles: written warnings, vehicle defect rectification scheme, fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices and court proceedings**

England and Wales												Thousands of offences
Type of action :	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Written warnings issued	151	274	238	326	231	199	198	188	201	161	127	109
Vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS) notices complied with <sup>(1)</sup>	*	*	*	*	196	198	195	207	210	192	168	127
Fixed penalty not paid, no further action taken <sup>(1)</sup>	*	..	..	1,544	498	320	286	281	269	240	235	180 <sup>(2)</sup>
Fixed penalty paid	*	..	..	2,593	4,014	2,582	2,391	2,530	2,649	2,691	2,450	2,404 <sup>(2)</sup>
Fine registration certificate	*	*	*	*	1,134	615	514	508	498	472	407	500 <sup>(2)</sup>
Total dealt with by fixed penalty notice/fine registration	*	102	1,990	4,137	5,647	3,518	3,191	3,318	3,416	3,403	3,093	3,084 <sup>(2)</sup>
Penalty charge notices issued <sup>(3)</sup>	*	*	*	*	*	1,706	3,148	3,523	3,769	3,872	3,956	4,655
Magistrates' court proceedings: <sup>(4)</sup>												
Proceedings discontinued, charges withdrawn or dismissed, etc	18	35	113	331	741	901	861	788	756	735	710	695
Findings of guilt after summary trial	366	922	1,553	2,086	1,527	1,516	1,520	1,477	1,460	1,454	1,407	1,356
Crown Court trial proceedings:												
Acquittals or not tried	-	1	3	4	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	3
Findings of guilt	-	2	9	16	19	17	17	15	16	10	8	8
Total dealt with by court proceedings	385	959	1,679	2,437	2,294	2,440	2,404	2,284	2,236	2,203	2,128	2,063
Total dealt with by cautions, VDRS, fixed penalties, penalty charge notices or court proceedings	536	1,335	3,907	6,900	8,368	8,061	9,136	9,520	9,832	9,831	9,500	10,038
Vehicles currently licensed (millions) <sup>(5)</sup>	4.6 <sup>(6)</sup>	9.8	15.3 <sup>(6)</sup>	17.9	22.7	22.8	22.9	23.7	24.4	25.5	26.2	26.2

(1) When court proceedings are instituted following non-compliance with a VDRS notice or non-payment of a fixed penalty, the offence is included in this table only under 'court proceedings'. The total number of VDRS notices issued is shown in Table 4 and the total number of fixed penalty notices issued is shown in Tables 5 and 6.

(2) Details of whether fixed penalties were paid, or court proceedings instituted in respect of them etc. are not yet complete for 2000; the figures shown are estimates based on provisional figures.

(3) See note 11(k)(iii)

(4) Committals for trial to the Crown Court are excluded.

(5) Source: Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions.

(6) Figures relate to Great Britain.

**Table 2 Motoring offences <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup> dealt with by official police action <sup>(3)</sup>**

England and Wales		Thousands of offences										
Offence group	Offence type	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	1994	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
1	Causing death or bodily harm	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
2	Dangerous driving	4.9	10.9	10.7	6.8	12.2	11.4	10.4	10.4	10.1	9.5	9.2
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	3.4	7.5	46.0	82.4	119.1	105.0	108.4	112.5	104.4	99.7	96.3
4	Careless driving	29.1	84.6	139.4	180.5	128.8	106.4	99.0	102.8	99.8	97.7	94.8
5	Accident offences	8.6	19.9	30.9	57.5	53.9	36.2	32.8	32.5	31.6	29.9	29.0
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	12.3	32.4	52.6	75.9	95.1	76.0	63.2	58.4	57.0	56.7	50.8
7-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	110.9	330.4	650.7	1,057.6	1,267.0	1,395.0	1,304.1	1,277.9	1,255.4	1,227.5	1,201.2
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	36.5	57.6	315.4	408.0	624.7	737.7	704.5	683.9	649.3	603.7	538.8
16	Speed limit offences	83.3	147.4	272.1	343.6	637.0	610.8	761.4	891.2	975.1	1,015.1	1,202.3
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	60.9	170.4	132.5	241.1	320.7	272.1	286.3	291.6	279.8	253.3	239.3
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences <sup>(4)</sup>	89.0	300.8	1,975.7	4,211.7	4,760.5	2,734.3	2,309.5	2,226.8	2,146.8	1,836.0	1,619.1
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	66.9	115.6	229.8	227.7	88.1	71.4	69.7	76.1	77.6	68.9	55.6
23	Load offences	5.5	11.4	17.7	35.9	44.1	29.8	27.0	25.2	25.5	21.1	18.6
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	0.9	3.4	1.7	19.6	7.3	4.8	4.3	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.1
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences <sup>(5)</sup>	23.7	41.8	31.5	131.0	237.8	221.7	249.0	279.9	278.1	258.1	223.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>536.2</b>	<b>1,334.5</b>	<b>3,907.3</b>	<b>7,079.4</b>	<b>8,396.6</b>	<b>6,413.1</b>	<b>6,030.1</b>	<b>6,074.0</b>	<b>5,995.0</b>	<b>5,581.6</b>	<b>5,382.4</b>

(1) Table does not agree with Table 1 for technical reasons. To avoid double counting, if a fixed penalty notice is eventually dealt with by proceedings it will not be counted in Table 1. Fixed penalty notices where the outcome was not finalised are also excluded in Table 1.

(2) The basis on which the statistics are compiled have changed from year to year and comparisons between years should be made with caution. For example, theft offences were not collated on a comparable basis in 1951 and 1961 nor failure to pay motor vehicle duty in 1951, 1961 or 1971. Estimates based on court proceedings for principal offences have been used instead.

(3) Consists of court proceedings, written warnings, fixed penalties and vehicle defect rectification notices complied with.

(4) In addition, 4,655,300 parking offences were dealt with in 2000 by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. See note 11(k)(iii).

(5) Includes the following numbers of seat belt offences in 2000: 5,740 court proceedings, 155,301 fixed penalties and 6,163 written warnings.

**Table 3 Written warnings by offence group**

England and Wales 2000												Thousands of offences
Offence group	Offence type	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
1-4	Dangerous, careless or drunken driving etc. <sup>(1)</sup>	19	23	21	22	22	20	21	23	18	15	11
5	Accident offences	5	6	6	5	5	4	4	4	3	3	2
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle <sup>(1)</sup>	11	11	10	9	8	8	8	7	7	7	7
7-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	73	69	58	53	49	43	41	36	31	26	23
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	46	47	43	48	45	41	34	34	27	20	16
16	Speed limit offences	12	19	11	24	24	31	27	35	28	22	24
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	14	13	9	12	10	16	13	16	11	8	7
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	5	5	5	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	2
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	16	18	11	13	14	13	14	17	15	11	7
23	Load offences	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	8	11	9	15	14	16	18	22	15	12	8
	Total	218	231	187	212	199	198	188	201	161	127	109
Number of persons <sup>(2)</sup> (thousands)		154	160	136	166	157	155	143	157	135	106	92

(1) Cautions data has been included

(2) See note 8.

**Table 4 Vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS) notices issued <sup>(1)</sup> and complied with <sup>(2)</sup>, by quarter**

England and Wales		Thousands and percentages	
Year	VDRS notices issued	Notices complied with	
		Thousands	%
1990	268	197	74
1991	262	196	75
1992	265	195	74
1993	271	200	74
1994	268	198	74
1995	263	195	74
1996	272	207	76
1997	273	210	77
1998	251	192	76
1999	221	168	76
2000	170	127	75
1999 1st quarter	66.3	51.6	78
2nd quarter	56.4	42.5	75
3rd quarter	48.3	36.4	75
4th quarter	50.4	37.4	74
2000 1st quarter	51.8	39.3	76
2nd quarter	41.0	30.1	73
3rd quarter	36.0	26.6	74
4th quarter	40.8	31.0	76

(1) A notice may relate to several defects.

(2) Vehicle repaired or scrapped within specified period.

**Table 5 Fixed penalty notices issued by type of offence**

England and Wales		Thousands of notices											
Offence group	Offence type	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
7,10	Licence and record keeping offences	62	68	75	64	49	43	43	48	47	50	68	49
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	16	14	15	12	11	12	13	15	17	17	14	10
16	Speed limit offences	411	448	449	460	395	472	530	595	713	781	825	1,023
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	262	252	231	205	184	201	208	216	224	219	199	187
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences <sup>(1)</sup>	5,358	5,314	4,715	4,180	3,383	2,698	2,271	2,282	2,199	2,118	1,808	1,595
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	44	36	30	26	19	18	17	21	26	30	28	23
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences <sup>(2)</sup>	107	153	148	118	117	117	131	160	184	200	185	159
4,23,24	Other offences	11	12	14	11	9	12	12	14	18	24	31	36
Total		6,272	6,298	5,676	5,077	4,166	3,574	3,225	3,352	3,428	3,440	3,157	3,084

(1) In addition, 4,655,300 parking offences were dealt with in 2000 by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. See note 11(k)(iii).

(2) The majority of these offences are seat-belt offences, 155,301 in 2000.



**Table 6 Fixed penalty notices by result - percentage paid, fine registered, etc**

England and Wales													Percentage of notices issued		
Result	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Penalty paid	68	72	73	72	71	70	71	73	74	76	77	78	79	77	
No further action	11	9	8	8	9	10	10	9	9	8	8	7	8	6	
Fine registered	20	19	19	20	20	20	19	17	16	15	14	14	13	16	
Referred for court proceedings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.6	
Total notices dealt with <sup>(2)</sup>	5,814	6,175	6,272	6,298	5,676	5,077	4,166	3,574	3,225	3,352	3,428	3,440	3,112	3,084	

(1) The analysis of results of fixed penalty notices is not yet complete for 2000. The percentages shown are estimates based on provisional figures.

(2) In addition, 4,655,300 parking offences were dealt with in 2000 by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. See note 11(k)(iii).

**Table 7 Percentage of fixed penalty notices paid, by force area and type of notice**

England and Wales											Percentages		
Year	Endorsable <sup>(1)</sup>			Non-endorsable						All notices			
	Metro-politan Police	Other forces	All forces	Driver present			Driver absent <sup>(2)</sup>			Metro-politan Police	Other forces	All forces	
				Metro-politan Police	Other forces	All forces	Metro-politan Police	Other forces	All forces				
1989	82.4	89.5	88.6	63.2	67.0	66.3	68.3	75.0	72.2	68.6	76.1	73.3	
1990	82.3	88.5	87.8	57.8	64.9	63.4	67.5	72.2	70.4	67.6	73.7	71.5	
1991	81.1	88.8	87.6	56.8	65.0	63.5	65.7	71.5	69.2	66.0	73.2	70.6	
1992	80.6	88.4	87.3	61.7	62.2	62.6	63.5	70.4	68.1	63.8	72.6	69.6	
1993	83.2	91.0	89.8	61.8	65.3	64.5	65.0	70.6	68.7	65.8	73.0	70.8	
1994 <sup>(3)</sup>	86.4	91.6	90.9	64.6	66.5	66.2	65.1	70.8	69.6	67.4	74.1	72.8	
1995 <sup>(3)</sup>	89.9	91.7	91.4	67.7	68.0	68.0	65.5	70.7	70.1	71.8	74.7	74.3	
1996 <sup>(3)</sup>	92.6	91.7	91.9	71.5	69.7	70.0	66.1	71.8	71.2	74.2	75.8	75.6	
1997 <sup>(3)</sup>	91.6	92.2	92.1	71.2	71.3	71.3	66.9	72.7	72.2	74.4	77.1	76.9	
1998 <sup>(3)</sup>	92.4	93.3	93.2	72.7	73.2	73.1	69.0	73.5	73.1	75.5	78.7	78.4	
1999 <sup>(3)</sup>	93.8	95.2	95.1	73.9	72.1	72.2	65.2	72.2	71.5	73.2	79.3	78.7	
2000 <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	94.6	94.6	94.6	73.8	74.8	74.7	63.2	71.9	70.6	69.9	80.0	77.0	

(1) Offences detected by automatic cameras (up to and including 1998) and all cameras (from 1999) for which a conditional offer of a fixed penalty was made can only be counted if made substantive, ie. if paid.

(2) For driver absent offences, a notice to owner is issued in the event of non-payment which can act as a reminder.

(3) Penalty charge notices issued by local authorities are not included.

(4) The analysis of results of fixed penalty notices is not yet complete for 2000. The figures shown are estimates based on provisional figures.

**Table 8 Proceedings at magistrates' courts for offences relating to motor vehicles**

England and Wales		Thousands of offences												
Offence group	Offence type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1999				2000			
							1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr
Offences for which a fixed penalty notice cannot be given <sup>(1)</sup> :														
1	Causing death or bodily harm	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
2	Dangerous driving	10.0	10.0	9.8	9.4	9.1	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.2	2.2	2.1
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	107.9	112.1	104.0	99.5	96.2	25.8	23.9	24.9	25.0	26.1	23.8	23.4	22.7
4	Careless driving <sup>(1)</sup>	68.5	66.4	62.2	56.4	51.5	15.6	14.6	13.8	12.4	13.9	13.4	12.6	11.5
5	Accident offences	28.9	28.9	28.3	27.3	26.7	7.5	6.5	6.7	6.5	7.3	6.5	6.6	6.3
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	55.5	51.5	50.2	49.9	44.2	13.3	12.3	12.3	12.0	12.5	10.8	10.7	10.1
part 7-14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences <sup>(1)</sup>	1,213.5	1,193.9	1,174.1	1,132.6	1,128.2	294.6	284.2	285.5	268.3	305.4	288.5	280.6	253.7
13	Vehicle test offences <sup>(1)</sup>	365.4	347.5	342.2	340.0	333.7	88.8	86.1	86.8	78.4	92.1	86.1	82.3	73.2
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences <sup>(1)</sup>	62.7	65.5	55.7	54.8	50.3	14.0	14.6	13.5	12.7	12.3	11.9	12.5	13.6
	Sub-total	1,913.0	1,876.5	1,826.9	1,770.3	1,740.3	462.1	444.4	446.1	417.8	47.2	44.3	43.1	39.5
Offences for which a fixed penalty notice can be given <sup>(2)</sup> :														
part 10	Motor vehicle licence obscured or not affixed	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition <sup>(2)</sup>	82.5	75.3	71.0	62.3	51.5	17.0	15.9	15.9	13.5	14.7	13.3	12.6	10.9
16	Speed limit offences <sup>(2)</sup>	139.6	143.4	166.2	168.1	154.7	42.2	40.9	44.0	41.0	39.8	35.7	39.6	39.6
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights <sup>(2)</sup>	57.2	51.7	49.6	46.9	45.5	12.9	11.7	11.3	11.0	12.2	11.1	11.1	11.0
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences <sup>(2)</sup>	23.3	23.6	24.7	24.9	21.6	6.7	6.5	6.4	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.0
21,22	Lighting and noise offences <sup>(2)</sup>	34.8	32.9	31.8	29.9	25.5	7.9	8.1	7.6	6.3	7.2	6.9	6.4	5.0
23	Load offences <sup>(2)</sup>	21.5	19.8	19.6	16.6	14.8	4.7	4.6	4.0	3.2	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.2
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles <sup>(2)</sup>	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7
part 25	Seat belt offences	8.5	8.2	8.3	6.9	5.7	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.2
	Sub-total	371.1	358.6	374.7	358.8	322.6	94.2	90.2	91.8	82.6	86.0	78.3	81.4	76.9
	Total	2,284.0	2,235.0	2,201.6	2,129.1	2,062.9	556.3	534.6	537.8	500.4	558.3	521.7	512.4	470.4

(1) Includes a small number of offences for which a fixed penalty notice can be given.

(2) Includes a small number of offences for which a fixed penalty notice cannot be given.

**Table 9 Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for summary motoring offences <sup>(1)</sup>**

England and Wales		Thousands of defendants												
Offence group	Offence type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1999				2000			
							1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr
Offences for which a fixed penalty notice cannot be given <sup>(1)</sup> :														
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	91.4	95.4	89.0	84.8	82.2	22.0	20.4	21.3	21.1	22.2	20.4	19.9	19.6
4	Careless driving <sup>(2)</sup>	50.3	49.0	46.9	40.1	35.9	11.2	10.5	9.9	8.4	9.7	9.5	8.8	7.9
5	Accident offences	9.1	9.2	8.8	8.5	8.2	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.3	1.9	2.0	1.9
part 7-14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences <sup>(2)</sup>	347.1	339.6	334.7	321.6	328.9	84.5	81.4	81.5	74.2	88.5	85.3	81.9	73.2
13	Vehicle test offences <sup>(2)</sup>	49.5	45.9	40.9	37.0	33.2	10.2	9.6	9.3	7.9	9.2	8.7	8.3	6.9
part 25	Miscellaneous motoring offences <sup>(2)</sup>	50.5	54.0	55.9	59.1	62.4	14.4	15.0	15.3	14.4	14.6	14.5	15.8	17.5
	Sub-total	<u>597.9</u>	<u>593.0</u>	<u>576.3</u>	<u>551.0</u>	<u>550.7</u>	<u>144.6</u>	<u>139.1</u>	<u>139.3</u>	<u>128.0</u>	<u>146.6</u>	<u>140.3</u>	<u>136.8</u>	<u>127.0</u>
Offences for which a fixed penalty notice can be given <sup>(3)</sup> :														
part 10	Motor vehicle licence obscured or not affixed	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition <sup>(3)</sup>	29.7	27.5	25.9	21.8	18.3	6.0	5.5	5.6	4.7	5.2	4.6	4.6	3.9
16	Speed limit offences <sup>(3)</sup>	129.2	133.1	160.2	156.6	145.0	39.2	37.9	41.2	38.2	37.1	33.7	36.9	37.2
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights <sup>(3)</sup>	42.6	38.1	37.9	35.4	34.8	9.7	9.0	8.4	8.3	9.2	8.4	8.5	8.6
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences <sup>(3)</sup>	21.0	21.0	23.6	22.9	19.6	6.0	6.0	6.0	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.6
21,22	Lighting and noise offences <sup>(3)</sup>	8.2	8.3	8.2	7.6	6.0	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.2
23	Load offences <sup>(3)</sup>	15.6	14.1	14.5	11.2	10.5	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.2	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.3
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles <sup>(3)</sup>	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
part 25	Seat belt offences	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.1	1.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
	Sub-total	<u>249.3</u>	<u>245.0</u>	<u>273.3</u>	<u>258.0</u>	<u>236.2</u>	<u>67.0</u>	<u>64.2</u>	<u>66.5</u>	<u>60.3</u>	<u>61.7</u>	<u>56.6</u>	<u>59.8</u>	<u>58.2</u>
	Total	<u>847.2</u>	<u>838.0</u>	<u>849.6</u>	<u>809.0</u>	<u>786.9</u>	<u>211.7</u>	<u>203.3</u>	<u>205.8</u>	<u>188.2</u>	<u>208.3</u>	<u>196.9</u>	<u>196.5</u>	<u>185.2</u>

(1) This table breaks down the figures published in Table 6.1 of "Criminal statistics, England and Wales, 2000" (Cm 5001). It therefore counts the number of defendants for whom a summary motoring offence was the principal offence at that court appearance. It also excludes the summary offences of failing to pay appropriate vehicle excise duty, unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle and aggravated vehicle taking where the only aggravating factor was criminal damage of £2,000 and under.

(2) Includes a small number of offences for which a fixed penalty notice can be given.

(3) Includes a small number of offences for which a fixed penalty notice cannot be given.

**Table 10 Offences dealt with by written warnings, VDRS notice, fixed penalty notice and court proceedings, and proportion dealt with by each method, by police force area**

England and Wales 2000

Number of offences and percentages

Police force area	Numbers					Percentages			
	Total = 100%	Written warnings	VDRS notices <sup>(1)</sup>	Fixed penalty notices	Court proceedings <sup>(2)</sup>	Written warnings	VDRS notices <sup>(1)</sup>	Fixed penalty notices	Court proceedings <sup>(2)</sup>
Avon and Somerset	166,700	3,100	5,900	83,300	74,400	1.9	3.5	50.0	44.6
Bedfordshire	56,400	13,000	400	25,800	17,200	23.0	0.7	45.7	30.5
Cambridgeshire	61,800	300	700	45,300	15,500	0.5	1.1	73.3	25.1
Cheshire	74,300	600	1,400	41,100	31,200	0.8	1.9	55.3	42.0
Cleveland	85,300	10,500	4,500	42,200	28,100	12.3	5.3	49.5	32.9
Cumbria	34,000	800	900	13,400	18,900	2.4	2.6	39.4	55.6
Derbyshire	98,200	1,300	14,300	50,600	32,000	1.3	14.6	51.5	32.6
Devon and Cornwall	187,700	2,900	6,800	119,500	58,500	1.5	3.6	63.7	31.2
Dorset	97,400	200	4,900	58,900	33,400	0.2	5.0	60.5	34.3
Durham	58,400	1,000	3,900	30,600	22,900	1.7	6.7	52.4	39.2
Essex	219,200	500	5,000	161,400	52,300	0.2	2.3	73.6	23.9
Gloucestershire	72,700	1,300	3,700	39,300	28,400	1.8	5.1	54.1	39.1
Greater Manchester	366,400	4,300	7,400	162,700	192,000	1.2	2.0	44.4	52.4
Hampshire	150,100	2,000	7,100	71,600	69,400	1.3	4.7	47.7	46.2
Hertfordshire	102,500	6,000	2,300	64,900	29,300	5.9	2.2	63.3	28.6
Humberside	89,400	500	2,300	56,500	30,100	0.6	2.6	63.2	33.7
Kent	80,600	600	5,500	38,800	35,700	0.7	6.8	48.1	44.3
Lancashire	195,000	700	3,800	112,000	78,500	0.4	1.9	57.4	40.3
Leicestershire	115,300	1,600	3,200	52,300	58,200	1.4	2.8	45.4	50.5
Lincolnshire	85,400	800	2,200	46,600	35,800	0.9	2.6	54.6	41.9
London, City of	29,200	1,800	200	11,800	15,400	6.2	0.7	40.4	52.7
Merseyside	127,400	5,200	1,100	77,800	43,300	4.1	0.9	61.1	34.0
Metropolitan Police	503,600	3,300	3,200	310,400	186,700	0.7	0.6	61.6	37.1
Norfolk	57,900	..	3,500	37,000	17,400 <sup>(3)</sup>	..	6.0	63.9	30.1 <sup>(3)</sup>
Northamptonshire	118,500	300	2,200	85,700	30,300 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.3	1.9	72.3	25.6 <sup>(3)</sup>
Northumbria	203,500	6,800	14,600	115,300	66,800	3.3	7.2	56.7	32.8
North Yorkshire	50,200	700	2,000	23,700	23,800	1.4	4.0	47.2	47.4
Nottinghamshire	101,400	500	2,600	64,200	34,100	0.5	2.6	63.3	33.6
South Yorkshire	120,100	1,300	7,200	64,000	47,600	1.1	6.0	53.3	39.6
Staffordshire	88,900	1,700	1,700	30,700	.. <sup>(3)</sup>	5.0	5.0	90.0	.. <sup>(3)</sup>
Suffolk	66,400	600	1,300	37,000	27,500	0.9	2.0	55.7	41.4
Surrey	66,800	600	2,500	42,500	21,200	0.9	3.7	63.6	31.7
Sussex	196,900	1,600	1,300	153,300	40,700	0.8	0.7	77.9	20.7
Thames Valley	205,600	800	3,000	139,100	62,700	0.4	1.5	67.7	30.5
Warwickshire	52,400	9,600	3,100	18,200	21,500	18.3	5.9	34.7	41.0
West Mercia	99,900	900	3,800	52,000	43,200	0.9	3.8	52.1	43.2
West Midlands	256,300	2,400	5,700	105,600	142,600	0.9	2.2	41.2	55.6
West Yorkshire	227,600	4,900	3,600	97,900	121,200	2.2	1.6	43.0	53.3
Wiltshire	72,300	1,200	2,800	33,000	35,300	1.7	3.9	45.6	48.8
Dyfed Powys	60,000	3,200	5,400	30,200	21,200	5.3	9.0	50.3	35.3
Gwent	71,900	800	3,200	41,000	26,900	1.1	4.5	57.0	37.4
North Wales	68,300	1,600	2,400	39,200	25,100	2.3	3.5	57.4	36.7
South Wales	251,300	6,700	7,500	157,300	79,800	2.7	3.0	62.6	31.8
England and Wales	5,425,100	108,600	169,700	3,083,900	2,062,900 <sup>(3)</sup>	2.0	3.1	56.8	38.0 <sup>(3)</sup>

(1) Numbers of notices issued. A VDRS notice may cover more than one defect.

(2) Includes cases in which court proceedings were instituted either following non-compliance with a VDRS notice or, in the case of a fixed penalty notice, where the motorist chose to go to court.

(3) For information on shortfalls in court proceedings in Norfolk and Northamptonshire and estimates for Staffordshire see Note 6.

(4) In addition, 4,655,300 parking offences were dealt with in 2000 by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. See note 11(k)(iii).

**Table 11 Findings of guilt at all courts by type of offence**

England and Wales

Offence group	Offence type	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
1	Causing death or bodily harm	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
2	Dangerous driving	7.6	7.7	6.8	6.2	6.2	6.4	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.2
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	113.2	103.8	95.2	91.2	89.7	92.5	95.7	100.2	93.1	89.4	85.8
4	Careless driving	86.1	83.4	77.8	66.4	64.7	61.9	57.4	55.8	52.1	46.8	41.3
5	Accident offences	33.5	31.3	26.5	21.7	19.3	18.7	17.9	18.0	17.3	16.4	15.8
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	54.5	54.6	41.9	39.6	37.8	33.5	32.2	30.3	30.0	29.5	25.4
7	Driving while disqualified	45.3	47.7	44.8	46.7	47.1	45.4	42.5	42.5	42.4	43.9	42.8
7-12,14	Other licence, insurance and record keeping offences	608.9	644.2	684.1	710.0	733.1	742.3	713.7	703.8	693.9	668.9	670.6
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	193.4	206.7	226.7	250.4	257.3	259.9	243.7	234.6	233.3	227.4	217.2
16	Speed limit offences	163.5	156.8	148.5	100.2	105.1	119.0	130.0	132.8	153.5	153.6	141.4
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	59.2	63.1	66.0	55.5	48.8	48.6	46.5	42.4	40.8	38.2	37.7
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	27.7	30.1	33.9	30.5	20.8	16.2	15.4	15.7	16.8	16.6	14.2
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	29.0	29.0	28.1	26.8	27.0	25.6	24.5	23.3	22.9	21.2	17.9
23	Load offences	34.7	31.9	27.6	21.8	21.6	20.7	19.3	17.8	17.7	14.8	13.3
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	3.9	3.0	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1
25	Non-compliance with notice to owner	10.5	15.6	26.3	21.0	17.7	6.6	7.7	11.8	9.9	10.2	3.6
25	Seat belt offences	8.5	9.9	8.5	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.6	5.5	4.4
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	21.2	27.2	29.0	31.7	28.2	30.8	30.8	31.7	26.0	25.2	25.5
	Total (thousands)	1,501.1	1,546.5	1,574.6	1,529.3	1,533.4	1,537.3	1,492.4	1,475.3	1,464.5	1,415.2	1,364.6
	As a percentage of total court proceedings (Table 1)	72	67	64	63	63	64	65	66	66	66	66

**Table 12 Findings of guilt at all courts by type of offence, age and sex of offender**

England and Wales		Percentage of offences									
Offence group	Offence type	Percentage male <sup>(1)</sup>					Percentage under 21 <sup>(1)</sup>				
		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
1	Causing death or bodily harm	94	96	96	94	95	17	24	26	27	25
2	Dangerous driving	97	97	97	97	97	32	30	31	32	34
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	92	92	91	91	90	10	10	11	12	12
4	Careless driving	85	85	85	84	84	15	5	16	16	16
5	Accident offences	89	89	88	89	88	20	20	22	22	22
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	97	97	96	96	96	69	67	68	70	70
7-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	91	91	90	90	89	18	18	19	21	22
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	92	92	91	91	90	18	19	19	21	21
16	Speed limit offences	89	88	87	86	85	6	6	5	5	5
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	86	85	86	85	85	8	8	8	9	8
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	80	80	79	79	78	2	2	2	1	1
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	92	91	91	91	90	22	23	23	23	22
23	Load offences	98	98	97	98	97	2	2	2	2	2
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	98	98	98	98	97	76	78	80	80	79
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	83	84	83	83	81	7	5	6	6	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>

(1) The numbers on which these percentages are based are published annually in the supplementary tables to this bulletin (see note 14).

**Table 13 Sentences and orders <sup>(1)</sup> imposed by magistrates' courts and the Crown Court for offences relating to motor vehicles**

England and Wales

Thousands of offences

Sentence or order imposed	by magistrates' courts										
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Absolute or conditional discharge	102.5	105.9	99.4	89.4	79.3	65.1	60.2	56.2	54.7	55.7	50.5
Probation or supervision order	38.9	40.3	32.0	34.3	36.9	32.9	32.5	31.7	31.0	29.6	25.6
Fine	1,220.5	1,214.3	1,209.8	1,101.6	1,052.4	1,059.6	1,031.6	1,015.2	988.8	918.1	878.4
Community service order	16.6	18.0	16.9	18.9	18.2	17.0	15.2	15.2	15.0	16.2	15.2
Attendance centre order	3.7	4.1	2.8	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.4
Care order	0.2	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Combination order	*	*	0.7	5.2	7.1	8.3	9.7	10.4	10.6	10.2	9.1
Drug treatment and testing order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.0
Secure training order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.2	0.1
Detention and training order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.2
Youth custody / young offender institution	9.2	10.9	8.5	9.7	10.7	10.5	9.8	9.6	9.5	10.5	7.4
Imprisonment:											
Fully suspended sentence	7.6	8.3	6.0	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6
Partly suspended sentence	0.1	-	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unsuspended sentence	9.8	11.8	11.6	15.7	21.0	22.5	22.4	23.6	23.3	24.6	23.9
Other	4.2	6.0	9.1	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.8	1.9	2.5	3.1	
<b>Total sentences or orders</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>1,020</b>
Offence not separately dealt with <sup>(2)</sup>	60.2	98.1	152.6	229.5	282.1	295.2	287.1	288.2	305.6	325.0	327.9

Sentence or order imposed	by the Crown Court <sup>(3)</sup>										
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Absolute or conditional discharge	3.2	2.6	2.0	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Probation or supervision order	2.5	2.6	2.7	1.9	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.7
Fine	3.2	2.7	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8
Community service order	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5
Care order	-	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Combination order	*	*	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Drug treatment and testing order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.0
Secure training order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	0.0	-
Detention and training order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.1
Youth custody / young offender institution	3.7	4.4	3.8	2.6	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.7	1.9
Imprisonment:											
Fully suspended sentence	1.1	1.4	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Partly suspended sentence	0.2	0.1	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unsuspended sentence	5.4	6.0	5.9	5.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.3	6.4	6.0	5.6
Other	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
<b>Total sentences or orders</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>
Offence not separately dealt with	5.0	6.1	6.2	5.7	6.3	6.8	7.3	7.5	8.4	8.4	7.3

(1) Where more than one sentence or order was imposed for an offence, the principal sentence or order is shown

(2) In recent years the imposition of no sentence or order for offences 'not separately dealt with' has been increasing. It is known that a sentence or order was imposed for another offence in each case

(3) Includes cases where the offender was found guilty by a magistrates' court and committed to the Crown Court for sentence



**Table 14 Average fines at magistrates' courts for certain motoring offences <sup>(1)</sup> and average fines revalued to 1990 prices <sup>(2)</sup> (shown in brackets)**

England and Wales								£
Year	All offences	Dangerous driving	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	Careless driving	Speed limit offences	Vehicle insurance offences	Load offences	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1990	86	266	243	95	83	121	181	
1991	86 (81)	262 (247)	243 (230)	99 (94)	85 (80)	125 (132)	184 (174)	
1992	85 (77)	261 (238)	239 (218)	99 (90)	87 (79)	127 (116)	177 (161)	
1993	112 (100)	260 (233)	253 (227)	112 (100)	127 (114)	177 (159)	238 (213)	
1994	123 (108)	289 (253)	306 (268)	121 (106)	113 (99)	201 (176)	261 (228)	
1995	127 (107)	300 (254)	299 (253)	121 (102)	107 (90)	212 (179)	275 (233)	
1996	127 (105)	299 (247)	295 (244)	121 (100)	101 (83)	212 (175)	277 (229)	
1997	128 (102)	295 (236)	281 (225)	122 (98)	119 (95)	210 (168)	287 (230)	
1998	130 (101)	325 (252)	263 (204)	118 (91)	135 (105)	201 (156)	299 (231)	
1999	131 (100)	318 (242)	256 (195)	119 (91)	132 (101)	201 (153)	286 (218)	
2000	132 (98)	303 (224)	240 (178)	122 (90)	130 (96)	195 (144)	306 (227)	

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(1) Only fines which are principal sentences are included.

(2) As estimated by the general index of retail prices.

**Table 15 Sentences <sup>(1)</sup> of immediate custody <sup>(2)</sup> at all courts and as a percentage of all findings of guilt**

England and Wales		Numbers and percentages										
Offence group	Offence type	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
1	Causing death or bodily harm	280	280	250	240	250	250	290	270	270	210	250
2	Dangerous driving	1,900	2,400	2,400	1,900	2,300	2,500	2,300	2,500	2,300	2,300	2,400
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	3,800	4,300	3,900	4,500	5,800	6,200	6,400	7,200	6,900	6,900	6,600
5	Accident offences	*	*	*	300	500	400	500	500	600	600	600
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	12,000	13,600	11,000	10,800	11,800	11,500	11,100	10,900	10,900	10,500	8,700
part 7	Driving while disqualified	10,200	12,500	12,100	15,100	19,800	21,000	20,300	21,000	21,200	23,300	22,600
14	Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	100	100	100	100	100	200	100	100	100	100	90
part 25	Failing to give name and address etc. after accident	*	*	*	30	30	40	30	30	30	40	50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>28,300</b>	<b>33,200</b>	<b>29,900</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>40,500</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>42,200</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>41,200</b>
Percentage of findings of guilt resulting in an immediate custodial sentence <sup>(2)</sup>												
1	Causing death or bodily harm	70	70	61	70	73	73	78	79	80	79	81
2	Dangerous driving	25	32	35	31	37	38	40	42	40	44	45
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	4	4	4	5	6	7	7	7	7	8	8
5	Accident offences	*	*	*	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	4
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	22	25	26	27	31	34	34	36	36	35	34
part 7	Driving while disqualified	23	26	27	32	42	46	48	49	50	53	53
14	Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
part 25	Failing to give name and address etc. when required	*	*	*	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2

(1) Where more than one sentence was imposed for an offence, the principal sentence is shown.

(2) Unsuspended imprisonment, partly suspended sentences, youth custody/young offender institution, secure training orders and detention and training orders.

**Table 16 Driving licence disqualifications and endorsements, by type of offence**

England and Wales		Thousands of offences										
Offence group	Offence type	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Disqualifications												
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	8	8	7	8	8	7	7	8	8	7	7
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	102	93	86	83	81	84	88	93	86	83	80
6-25	Other offences	55	57	56	60	65	64	61	60	64	66	66
	<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>153</b>
	<b>Persons disqualified under the penalty points system <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33 <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>
Endorsements without disqualifications												
1-5	Dangerous, drunken, careless driving and accident offences	124	119	107	89	86	81	74	72	67	61	55
16-19	Speed limit offences and neglect of traffic signs, directions and of pedestrian rights	735	724	721	610	702	781	852	974	1,052	1,089	1,282
7-10, 12	Licence and insurance offences	341	352	365	382	383	374	351	344	337	364	374
6, 11, 13-15, 20-25	Other offences	117	117	99	73	73	74	73	75	70	61	52
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>1,763</b>
	Of which:											
	As a result of a fixed penalty notice <sup>(3)</sup>	581	568	562	490	583	651	717	841	903	938	1,136

(1) Excludes those persons who were disqualified for their current offences.

(2) Estimate. Figure amended since publication of 'Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales 1998, Supplementary tables'

(3) Included also in the appropriate rows above.

**Table 17 Driving licence disqualifications <sup>(1)</sup>: disqualifications of over one year, and as a percentage of all disqualifications, by type of offence**

England and Wales		Numbers and percentages										
Offence group	Offence type	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Disqualifications of over 1 year												
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	2,200	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,700	2,600	2,300	2,700	2,200	2,100	2,000
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	56,200	52,300	48,400	48,900	48,700	49,700	51,900	57,000	54,600	52,900	52,300
6-25	Other offences	9,100	10,000	9,800	11,500	13,900	12,800	11,700	12,000	12,100	12,000	11,700
	All offences	67,500	64,700	60,600	62,800	65,300	65,100	65,900	71,800	68,900	66,900	65,900
Percentage of all disqualifications that were over 1 year												
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	28	30	32	31	34	33	35	34	28	28	27
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	55	56	56	59	60	59	59	61	63	64	65
6-25	Other offences	17	18	18	19	21	20	19	20	19	18	18
	All offences	41	41	41	41	42	42	42	45	44	43	43

(1) Excluding disqualifications imposed under 'totting-up rules'/penalty points system.

**Table 18 Screening breath tests by outcome**

England and Wales											Thousands and percentages
Outcome	1990	1991	1992 <sup>(1)</sup>	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total number of tests	596.6	562.5	531.3	599.6	678.5	702.7	781.1	800.3 <sup>(2)</sup>	815.5	764.5	714.8
Number positive or refused	102.4	90.3	87.8	89.4	93.3	94.4	100.5	103.5	102.3 <sup>(3)</sup>	94.1 <sup>(3)</sup>	94.6 <sup>(3)</sup>
% Positive or refused	17	16	17	15	14	13	13	13	13	12	13

(1) See Note 14. (2) See Note 15. (3) See Note 16.

**Table 19 Screening breath tests by outcome and quarter**

England and Wales													Thousands and percentages
Outcome	1998 <sup>(1)</sup>				1999 <sup>(1)</sup>				2000 <sup>(1)</sup>				
	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	
Total number of tests	173.7	173.9	187.6	280.2	179.8	167.7	180.7	236.3	170.3	156.5	168.2	219.7	
Number positive or refused	23.7	25.5	26.3	26.9	21.0	23.4	24.3	25.5	21.6	23.1	24.3	25.6	
% Positive or refused	14	15	14	10	12	14	13	11	13	15	14	12	

(1) See Note 16.

**Table 20 Screening breath tests and number positive or refused by month**

England and Wales 2000 <sup>(1)</sup>											Numbers and percentages
Month	Total tests		Positive / refused		% Positive / refused						
January	65,000		7,200		11						
February	53,400		7,200		13						
March	51,900		7,200		14						
April	54,600		7,800		14						
May	53,300		7,800		15						
June	48,600		7,500		15						
July	53,100		8,400		16						
August	66,500		8,600		13						
September	48,500		7,400		15						
October	50,800		8,400		17						
November	61,300		8,400		14						
December	107,600		8,900		8						
<b>Total</b>	<b>714,800</b>		<b>94,600</b>		<b>13</b>						

(1) See Note 16.

**Table 21 Screening breath tests and number positive or refused by police force area**

England and Wales

Numbers and percentages

Police force area	1999 <sup>(1)</sup>					2000 <sup>(1)</sup>				
	Total tests	Total tests per 100,000 pop.	Positive / refused	Positive / refused per 100,000 pop.	% Positive / refused	Total tests	Total tests per 100,000 pop.	Positive / refused	Positive / refused per 100,000 pop.	% Positive / refused
Avon and Somerset	19,200	1,293	3,200	216	17	15,800	1,053	3,000	203	19
Bedfordshire	2,900	518	800	138	27	3,300	580	700	128	22
Cambridgeshire	13,600	1,890	1,100	159	8	12,800	1,766	1,100	151	9
Cheshire	20,500	2,083	1,600	168	8	15,800	1,608	2,500	251	16
Cleveland	28,600	5,141	800	152	3	18,800	3,385	800	144	4
Cumbria	7,100	1,437	600	114	8	6,100	1,235	600	122	10
Derbyshire	49,200	5,076	1,900	191	4	52,000	5,338	1,700	172	3
Devon and Cornwall	14,700	945	2,700	172	18	13,000	827	2,600	166	20
Dorset	9,200	1,331	1,300	185	14	12,300	1,776	1,400	200	11
Durham	12,700	2,084	900	154	7	15,300	2,523	1,000	167	7
Essex	24,100	1,570	2,700	178	11	27,200	1,680	2,500	153	9
Gloucestershire	8,300	1,495	1,300	232	16	8,200	1,460	1,400	245	17
Greater Manchester	21,500	833	4,800	186	22	27,300	1,059	8,500	331	31
Hampshire	31,600	1,782	3,800	212	12	35,200	1,979	3,700	206	10
Hertfordshire	7,000	792	1,900	214	27	6,000	572	2,000	191	33
Humberside	8,100	912	1,200	137	15	9,400	1,063	1,200	141	13
Kent	32,700	2,077	3,500	221	11	32,200	2,028	3,000	189	9
Lancashire	19,100	1,337	1,900	130	10	15,500	1,090	1,600	112	10
Leicestershire	21,100	2,275	2,000	215	9	18,600	2,006	2,000	218	11
Lincolnshire	21,000	3,370	900	138	4	12,100	1,925	800	125	6
London, City of <sup>(2)</sup>	1,700	..	300	..	17	1,100	..	200	..	23
Merseyside	18,600	1,321	2,200	159	12	12,800	911	2,200	157	17
Metropolitan	99,800	1,302	11,400	148	11	93,800	1,289	9,800	137	10
Norfolk	11,600	1,473	800	106	7	9,100	1,139	800	95	8
Northamptonshire	5,300	866	1,300	203	23	5,800	934	1,400	232	25
Northumbria	12,500	877	3,500	247	28	12,700	897	3,400	242	27
North Yorkshire	8,100	1,090	1,300	178	16	6,700	900	1,100	153	17
Nottinghamshire	8,400	810	2,400	237	29	8,400	812	2,400	228	28
South Yorkshire	16,100	1,234	2,000	153	12	19,200	1,477	2,200	169	11
Staffordshire	10,100	956	1,800	171	18	7,700	727	1,200	114	16
Suffolk	15,100	2,255	1,100	166	7	9,200	1,358	800	120	9
Surrey	11,700	1,487	1,600	203	14	12,400	1,150	1,600	145	13
Sussex	17,900	1,193	1,900	130	11	20,800	1,376	1,800	118	9
Thames Valley	30,300	1,442	4,900	234	16	30,800	1,457	5,300	251	17
Warwickshire	8,600	1,698	1,000	200	12	7,100	1,389	900	185	13
West Mercia	12,300	1,086	1,500	136	13	8,900	783	2,200	194	25
West Midlands	21,300	811	4,900	187	23	16,200	618	4,500	151	24
West Yorkshire	18,800	890	3,900	183	21	18,300	864	4,100	195	23
Wiltshire	6,800	1,130	1,000	167	15	6,500	1,065	1,000	162	15
Dyfed-Powys	9,900	2,070	1,000	212	10	7,400	1,536	800	175	11
Gwent	10,600	1,909	1,000	188	10	10,100	1,815	1,000	182	10
North Wales	15,900	2,413	1,500	235	10	15,000	2,274	1,600	239	11
South Wales	20,700	1,668	2,700	217	13	17,800	1,431	2,700	215	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>764,500</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>94,100</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>714,800</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>94,600</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>13</b>

(1) See Note 16. (2) Included with Metropolitan Police in Figures 5 and 6.

## NOTES

### Motoring Offences

#### *Sources of previous statistics*

1. Statistics for the years 1928 - 1976 were published annually as a return to the House of Commons and for 1977 - 1979 as a Command Paper (for 1979 Cmnd 8087). Statistics for 1980 to 1999 were published in Statistical Bulletins and in more detailed tables published separately ('Offences relating to Motor Vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary Tables') – see note 14. The bulletins and supplementary tables are available free from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate at the address in note 24.

#### *Coverage of the statistics*

2. The term "motor vehicle" in this bulletin means a mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads, and includes motor cycles, motor scooters, mechanically propelled invalid carriages, road rollers and tractors.

3. The statistics shown are for offences dealt with by means of written warnings or formal cautions, Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme notices, fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices or court proceedings. Offences dealt with by an oral warning or a "no further action" letter are not covered.

4. All the figures in this bulletin are based on a comprehensive recording procedure. However, despite the care which is taken by the police in completing the returns and by the Home Office in analysing them, the figures are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system of this kind and so the figures are not necessarily accurate to the last digit shown. The figures for some prosecutions involving minor motoring offences are likely to be less accurate.

5. Since January 1991, the *Metropolitan Police* have coded information for summonses for motoring offences from court registers. Previously they had used forms prepared by their Divisional Process Units. This led to an increase, in 1991 and subsequently, of about 50,000 in the number of defendants proceeded against in magistrates' courts for summary motoring offences. Additionally, from August 1992 the *Metropolitan Police* have coded information from court registers, rather than charge sheets, for cases where the defendant has been charged rather than summoned. This latter change is not believed to have seriously affected the statistics for summary motoring offences. The increase, in 1992, in the number of proceedings for summary offences generally may be due, at least in part, to a change in the rules of service for summonses, with a resulting increase in the number of effective summonses.

6. In 1994 *South Wales Police* were not able to supply all the returns for summary proceedings within the required timescale. In 1995, technical problems prevented the processing of multiple returns of some summary motoring proceedings and *Lincolnshire Police* were not able to supply all the returns for drink driving prosecutions. In 1996, *West Mercia* were unable to supply details of summary motoring prosecutions for the months of November and December. In 1999 *Lancashire Police* did not supply all motoring prosecutions for the last quarter of the year. Tables incorporating information about court proceedings in this bulletin include estimates for all these shortfalls. Table 9, however, contains no such estimation, in order to preserve comparability with Table 6.1 of 'Criminal Statistics' which contains no adjustment. Also in 1999 the *Metropolitan Police* were unable to supply details of fixed penalty notices for the month of October and estimates have been made for this shortfall in the tables in which numbers of fixed penalties are included. In 2000 *Staffordshire* police were only able to supply a 9% sample of data covering one full week in each quarter. This data has been used to estimate the total number of defendants for which magistrates' court proceedings were completed in that area. Hence all

Staffordshire figures for 2000 are estimates and the England and Wales figures for 2000 have been constructed using these estimates. *Norfolk* police in 2000 were not able to supply all the returns for summary proceedings within the required timescale and for the first time, problems were encountered with the electronic submission of data directly from the courts – resulting in shortfalls in summary motoring offences for *Northamptonshire* from June onwards. The shortfalls for both *Norfolk* and *Northamptonshire*, estimated at approximately 10,000 summary motoring offences, have not been included in this bulletin.

7. Figures for penalty charge notices in London include off street parking offences which are not covered by fixed penalty notices issued by the police (including traffic wardens). Figures for 1995 include estimates made by the Transport Committee for London to cover shortfalls in the returns made.

### **Counting basis**

8. A person appearing in court can be dealt with for more than one offence at that appearance. Except in Table 9, the tables show the numbers of offences or alleged offences dealt with and not the number of persons appearing in court. This method of counting differs from the principal offence basis used in Table 9 and for tables relating to court proceedings in "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 2000" (Cm 5312) and described in Appendix 2, paragraph 33 of that publication. In Table 3, 'number of persons' relates to the number of separate occasions on which persons received written warnings. The tables on fixed penalty and VDRS notices (Tables 4 - 7) show the number of notices issued. For fixed penalty notices, only one offence can be dealt with in this manner on each occasion, but for VDRS notices, a number of defects can be covered by a single notice.

9. Deferred sentences, when first imposed, are not included in the statistics; the offence is included in the figures for the year in which the final sentence was given.

10. The following cases are not included in the table on disqualifications and endorsements:

(a) disqualifications ordered under Section 28(1) of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 in respect of offences under Section 25 of the Theft Act 1968 (going equipped for stealing, etc.) with reference to the theft or taking of a motor vehicle.

(b) disqualifications ordered under Section 44 of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973 which empowers the Crown Court to order an offender who used a vehicle in the commission of an offence to be disqualified from driving.

(c) licences suspended pending their production to court (under the terms of Section 27(3) of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988).

### **Legislation affecting the tables**

11. Changes in legislation and practice which have affected the statistics for the years 1974 - 1979 are listed in pages 3 and 4 of Cmnd 8087. Some of the major changes in these and more recent years are listed below:

(a) offences which prior to repeal by the Criminal Law Act 1977 could have been prosecuted as 'dangerous' driving may now be prosecuted as either 'reckless' or 'careless' driving. Offences of driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs were made summary offences by this Act.

(b) from 14 March 1982 the fixed penalty was increased to £10, and on 17 February 1986 to £12; on 1 October 1986, with the introduction of extended fixed penalties (see (g) below), the penalty for non-endorsable offences was set at £12 and that for endorsable offences



at £24. These penalties were raised to £16 and £32 respectively on 1 April 1990. From 1 April 1992 the penalties were again raised as follows:

- £40 and 3 penalty points for an endorsable offence;
- £40 for illegal parking on a red route;
- £30 for illegal parking in London other than on a red route;
- £20 for other non-endorsable offences.

From the 1 November 2000 the penalties were raised as follows:

- £60 and 3 penalty points for an endorsable offence;
- £60 for illegal parking on a red route in Greater London;
- £40 for illegal parking in Greater London other than on a red route;
- £30 for other non-endorsable offences.

(c) the offence of failing to wear a seat belt was introduced on 31 January 1983 for driver and front seat passengers and was extended on 1 September 1989 to cover children under 14 in the back seat where seat belts or child rests are fitted.

(d) from 1 January 1983 a system of penalty points for endorsable offences was introduced under the Transport Act 1981. For all apart from four offence categories, each offence has a fixed number of penalty points that may be imposed, between 1 and 10, depending on the severity of the offence.

(e) on 6 May 1983, under the Transport Act 1981, the use of breath analysis to establish the level of alcohol in the body was introduced for the purpose of evidence in court.

(f) in 1982, the first Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme was introduced in Nottinghamshire. Several other forces introduced similar schemes over the years to 1986 and most introduced them on 1 October 1986 to coincide with implementation of the extended fixed penalty system. The remaining forces introduced schemes by 1 April 1987. All schemes operate on similar principles and are designed to ensure that the defective vehicle which has come to police notice is either repaired or scrapped. Under the scheme the driver is offered the opportunity of repairing the defects or scrapping the vehicle and producing evidence of this to the police within a fixed period of time. The driver will not then be reported for prosecution.

(g) on 1 October 1986, the extended fixed penalty system was introduced as provided for in the Transport Act 1982. Under this system, the police can issue fixed penalty notices for a much wider range of offences than previously; the arrangements for dealing with unpaid notices were also changed so that the court could automatically register an unpaid notice as a fine without any court appearance. The fine imposed was set at 50 per cent higher than the original fixed penalty. The introduction of the system required many forces to use new computer systems which may have resulted in changes to the quality of the data received. A new statistical return was also introduced which distinguished only the broad category of offence for which a notice has been issued.

(h) the Crown Prosecution Service was introduced in 1986, taking on responsibility for the conduct of all proceedings instituted by the police, with the exception of specified proceedings, mostly more minor motoring; an offence however ceases to be specified if the defendant does not plead guilty by post. Non-police prosecutions are not affected.

(i) the Criminal Justice Act 1988, included the following changes which were effective from 1 October 1988:

Sections 37, 40 and 41 - the offences of taking a motor vehicle or other conveyance without authority etc. and driving while disqualified were made summary offences. However these and some other summary offences may be included in certain circumstances in an indictment with an indictable offence. Also summary offences punishable with imprisonment or

involving obligatory or discretionary disqualification from driving may also be included in certain circumstances in an indictment with a triable either way offence committed for trial to the Crown Court.

Section 63 - chief officers of police can now authorise persons other than constables to give fixed penalty notices at a police station.

Section 68 - the minimum disqualification for the offence of causing death by reckless driving increased from 1 to 2 years.

(j) the Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992, added three new offences to the Theft Act 1968, effective from 1 April 1992. Two were triable either way, the first involving aggravated taking of a vehicle where, owing to the driving of the vehicle, an accident occurs causing the death of any person, and the second where the vehicle was driven dangerously, where injury to any person or damage to any property was caused, or where damage was caused to the vehicle. The third was a summary offence, involving aggravated taking of a vehicle where the only aggravating factor is criminal damage of £2,000 or under.

(k) the Road Traffic Act 1991, effective from 1 July 1992,

(i) amended the charge of reckless driving to one of dangerous driving and added a new offence of causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs.

(ii) enabled the use of automatic camera devices for road traffic law enforcement. Once the driver has been identified, the action taken could either be the issue of a fixed penalty notice or court proceedings. The decision as to whether to issue a fixed penalty notice is a matter for the police. The issue of a fixed penalty notice is conditional, and it does not become a substantive notice until complied with. Even then, if the offender's licence shows that the offender would be liable to disqualification under the totting up procedure, the case returns to the police for consideration of prosecution.

(iii) allowed local authorities to enforce parking controls within Special Parking Areas by parking attendants. If a vehicle is left otherwise than as authorised a penalty charge notice may be issued. These notices must be paid within 28 days, but if paid within 14 days there is a reduction in the charge. After 28 days, a process will be initiated to recover the debt which can lead to action in the County Court. The Act specifies that contravention of orders relating to Special Parking Areas is no longer a criminal offence, although in this bulletin we continue to refer to 'parking offences'. During 1994 all the London Boroughs (and the City of London) were using parking attendants, most beginning in July 1994, but some from earlier dates. The figures in this bulletin for London include both on and off-street parking offences. No local authority outside London was using parking attendants during 1995, but Winchester City Council (Hampshire police area) began issuing penalty charge notices in 1996. Local authorities in Thames Valley (Oxford and Wycombe), Hertfordshire (Watford) and Kent (Maidstone) began issuing penalty charge notices in 1997. In 1999 four further local authorities began to issue penalty charge notices. These were Hastings (Sussex police area), Luton (Bedfordshire), Manchester City (Greater Manchester) and Portsmouth (Hampshire). In 2000 seventeen further local authorities began to issue penalty charge notices. These were Ashford (Kent), Bedford Kempston (Bedfordshire), Bolton (Lancashire), Bristol (Avon and Somerset), Canterbury, Gravesham, and Medway (Kent), Reading (Berkshire), Sandwell (West Midlands), Sefton (Merseyside), Sevenoaks, Shepway, Swale, Thanet, Tonbridge, and Tunbridge Wells (Kent), York (North Yorkshire). For all local authorities outside London the figures cover only on-street parking. In London, penalty charges vary, depending on location, but were set at £30 - £60 until April 1999, when they were increased to between £40 and £80, but are reduced by 50 per cent if paid within 14 days.

(l) the Government's Road Safety Strategy launched in March 2000 contains a commitment to developing a funding mechanism that allows all agencies involved in speed camera enforcement to be able to cover their costs. Eight police force areas across Great Britain (seven of which were in England and Wales: Cleveland, Essex, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Thames Valley and South Wales) were selected to be part of the pilot for this new hypothecation, or netting-off scheme which went live in April 2000.

### ***Extension to the 'standard list of offences***

12. From 1 January 1996 three important categories of motoring offence have become standard list offences. This means that from that date onwards it will be possible to trace, for statistical and research purposes, the criminal careers of samples of offenders sentenced for such offences on the Home Office Offenders Index. The offences are as follows:

Dangerous driving (it had previously only been a standard list offence when tried on indictment);

Driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle while having a breath, urine or blood alcohol concentration in excess of a prescribed limit;

Driving whilst disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence.

For further information please contact Julian Prime. His address is as follows:

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### **Breath Tests**

#### ***Methods of collection and accuracy of results***

14. Reporting of breath tests is not comprehensive and negative tests are less well reported than positive tests. Up until 1992, breath test statistics were derived from a return to the Home Office by police forces in respect of each breath test required. Most forces returned information on negative tests on an aggregated basis.

15. Following the introduction of new breath testing equipment in Greater Manchester force wide in 1998, it became apparent that the total number of tests had been over-estimated in 1997 and adjustments were made which were initially reflected in the 1998, bulletin. The figures for Greater Manchester and the England and Wales totals in 1997 were reduced by some 60,000.

16. Following a comparison between the number of positive breath tests reported by each police force in 2000 and the number of court proceedings for drink/driving related offences, it became clear that there was under-reporting in a number of forces. For Essex, Staffordshire, Dyfed-Powys and South Wales therefore, the court proceedings figures has been substituted for the positive breath test figures, and in the case of West Midlands, arrest figures for drink/driving. Similar adjustments were also made to 1998 and 1999 figures.

17. Numbers in the tables have been rounded to the nearest 100. Components may not add exactly to the rounded totals.

### ***Legislation affecting the figures***

18. Section 25 and Schedule 8 of the Transport Act 1981 amended the drinking and driving provisions in the Road Traffic Act 1972. The new measures took effect in May 1983; the main change affecting the figures was the introduction of a new, faster method of measuring the concentration of alcohol in the body for evidential purposes by breath measurement. This streamlining of procedures was associated with an increase in the number of screening tests reported. These sections of the Act were renumbered (but otherwise unchanged) in the Road Traffic Act 1988.

### ***Screening breath tests***

19. The police can require a person to take a screening breath test, if they have reasonable cause to suspect that the person has been driving or attempting to drive with alcohol in his body (Section 6(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988), that he has committed a moving traffic offence (Section 6(1)), or that he has been involved in an accident (Section 6(2)). A person failing to provide a breath test is guilty of an offence, unless there is a reasonable excuse.

### ***Evidential breath tests***

20. For the purposes of evidence in court, breath analysis was introduced in May 1983. It did not change the prescribed alcohol limit which continues to be for blood and urine tests, 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood or 107 mg per 100 ml urine. The equivalent breath alcohol limit is expressed as 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100 ml breath.

### ***Symbols used in the tables***

21.. The following symbols are used in the tables:

*	not applicable
..	not available
0	less than half the final digit shown, or, in tables of percentages, less than 0.5 per cent.
-	nil

### ***Supplementary Tables***

22. The following tables are contained in the companion volumes 'Offences relating to motor vehicles, Supplementary tables, England and Wales 2000'. These can be obtained free of charge from the address in note 16.

Table 1	Motoring offences dealt with by official police action by offence group
Table 2	Proceedings at magistrates' courts by offence type and outcome
Table 3	Findings of guilt at magistrates' courts by offence type and sentence or order imposed
Table 4	Sentences of immediate imprisonment imposed at magistrates' courts by length of sentence
Table 5	Sentences of young offenders institution imposed at magistrates' courts by length of sentence
Table 6	Fines imposed at magistrates' courts by offence group and amount
Table 7	Proceedings for trial at the Crown Court by offence type and outcome

Table 8	Proceedings at the Crown Court for sentencing after summary conviction by offence type and sentence or order imposed
Table 9	Sentences of immediate imprisonment imposed at the Crown Court by length of sentence
Table 10	Sentences of young offender institution imposed at the Crown Court by length of sentence
Table 11	Fines imposed at trials at the Crown Court by offence group and amount
Table 12	Fines imposed at the Crown Court on sentencing after summary conviction by offence group and amount
Table 13	Driving licence endorsements and disqualifications imposed at magistrates' courts by offence group and period of disqualification
Table 14	Driving licence endorsements and disqualifications imposed at the Crown Court by offence group and period of disqualification
Table 15	Findings of guilt for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs by offence type and age group of offender
Table 16(a)	Proceedings at magistrates courts by offence group and police force area
Table 16(b)	Findings of guilt at all courts by offence group and police force area
Table 17	Findings of guilt at all courts by offence group, sex and age of offender
Table 18	Written warnings for motoring offences by offence group and police force area
Table 19	Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme notices issued and complied with by police force area
Table 20(a)	Fixed penalty notices issued for all offences by offence group and police force area
Table 20(b)	Fixed penalty notices issued for endorsable offences by offence group and police force area
Table 20(c)	Fixed penalty notices issued for non-endorsable offences by offence group and police force area
Table 21(a)	Fixed penalty notices by result and police force area - numbers
Table 21(b)	Fixed penalty notices by result and police force area - percentages

**Enquiries and next bulletin issue**

23. This bulletin has been prepared by the Crime and Criminal Justice Unit, based on data obtained by the Data Collection Group, both of which form part of the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate of the Home Office. Information on penalty charge notices was supplied by the Transport Committee for London and the various local authorities outside London. If you have any enquiries about figures in this bulletin or wish to request further analysis of the data (a fee may be charged) please contact the Crime and Criminal Justice Unit. The address is as follows:

Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate  
Crime and Criminal Justice Unit  
Room 1303  
Apollo House  
36 Wellesley Road  
Croydon  
Surrey, CR9 3RR

Telephone: 020 8760 8296

(or by internet email to:  
**justice.statsapollo@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk**)

24. Copies of this bulletin are available from:

Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate  
Communication and Development Unit  
Room 201  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
London  
SW1H 9AT

Telephone: 020 7273 2084  
(or by internet email to;  
**publications.rds.ho@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk**)

25. Press enquiries should be addressed to:

Home Office Communication Directorate  
Press Office  
50 Queen Anne's Gate  
London  
SW1H 9AT

Telephone: 020 7273 4610

26. Many publications, including this bulletin and the Supplementary tables for 2000, are downloadable from the RDS website at:

**<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm>**

### ***Motoring Statistics Review***

27. Statistics on motoring offences and breath tests are being reviewed as part of a rolling programme of Home Office reviews of regular information needs. The review will identify the main business needs for statistical information and the extent that these area met by current arrangements (both in terms of what is collected and how it is presented). A Reviewer was appointed in the summer and has been working to a specification produced by the Home Office. A consultation document will shortly be placed on the Home Office and National Statistics (ONS) websites.

**RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**  
**MISSION STATEMENT**

RDS is part of the Home Office. The Home Office's purpose is to build a safe, just and tolerant society in which the rights and responsibilities of individuals, families and communities are properly balanced and the protection and security of the public are maintained.

RDS also part of National Statistics (NS). One of the aims of NS is to inform Parliament and the citizen about the state of the nation and provide a window on the work and performance of government, allowing the impact of government policies and actions to be assessed.

Therefore -

**Research Development and Statistics Directorate exists to improve policy making, decision taking and practice in support of the Home Office purpose and aims, to provide the public and Parliament with information necessary for informed debate and to publish information for future use.**