

Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics 06/05

England and Wales 2003

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MAIN POINTS

Motoring offences

- The number of motoring offences dealt with by official police action or penalty charge notice in 2003 was 13.2 million, up 15 per cent on 2002 and the highest number recorded (paragraph 2).
- The number of offences dealt with by motoring fixed penalty notice issued by the police (including traffic wardens) in 2003 was 3.6 million, up 27 per cent on 2002. In addition 7.1 million penalty charge notices were issued by local authority parking attendants in 2003, up 11 per cent (paragraph 2).
- There were 2.3 million court proceedings for motoring offences during 2003, up nine per cent on 2002 (paragraph 2).
- Cameras provided evidence for 1.9 million offences dealt with in 2003. Overall these cameras provided evidence for 93 per cent of speeding offences dealt with (paragraph 31).

Breath tests

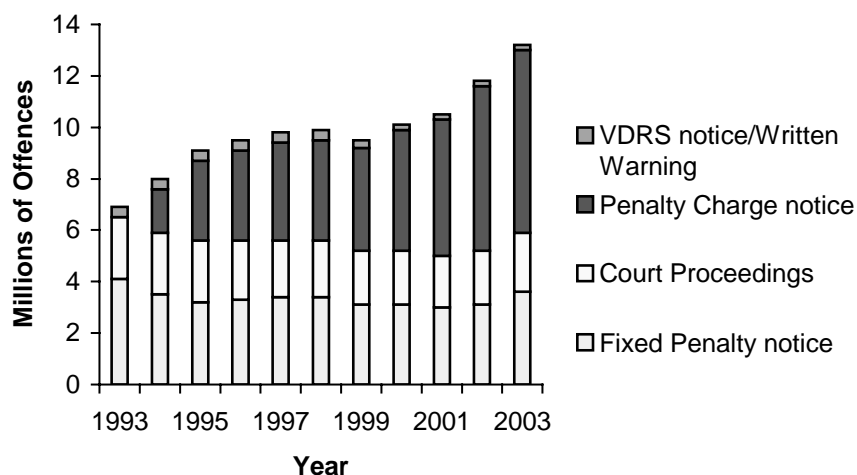
- 534,000 screening breath tests were carried out during 2003, six per cent fewer than in 2002 (paragraph 33).
- The number of positive or refused tests in 2003 rose by three per cent from 103,000 in 2002 to 106,000 in 2003 (paragraph 34).

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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 2003 and earlier years. The bulletin also includes statistics on penalty charge notices issued by local authority parking attendants from 1994 - see notes 8 and 13(k)(iii). This bulletin is a record of official action with regard to motoring offences and breath tests. More detailed information is provided in the companion volume "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales 2003, 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⁽¹⁾

England and Wales							Millions
Year	Type of action					Total	Vehicles Currently Licensed
	Written Warnings	VDRS Notice ⁽²⁾	Fixed Penalty Notice	Penalty Charge Notice	Court Proceedings		
1993	0.2	0.2	4.1	*	2.4	6.9	22.5
1994	0.2	0.2	3.5	1.7	2.4	8.1	22.8
1995	0.2	0.2	3.5	3.1	2.4	9.1	22.9
1996	0.2	0.2	3.3	3.5	2.3	9.5	23.7
1997	0.2	0.2	3.4	3.8	2.2	9.8	24.4
1998	0.2	0.2	3.4	3.9	2.2	9.8	25.5
1999	0.1	0.2	3.1 ⁽³⁾	4.0	2.1	9.4 ⁽³⁾	26.2
2000	0.1	0.1	3.0 ⁽³⁾	4.7	2.1	9.9 ⁽³⁾	26.2
2001	0.1	0.1	2.9 ⁽³⁾	5.3	2.0	10.4 ⁽³⁾	27.0
2002	0.1	0.1	2.9	6.4	2.1	11.5	27.7
2003	0.1	0.1	3.6	7.1	2.3	13.2	28.2

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

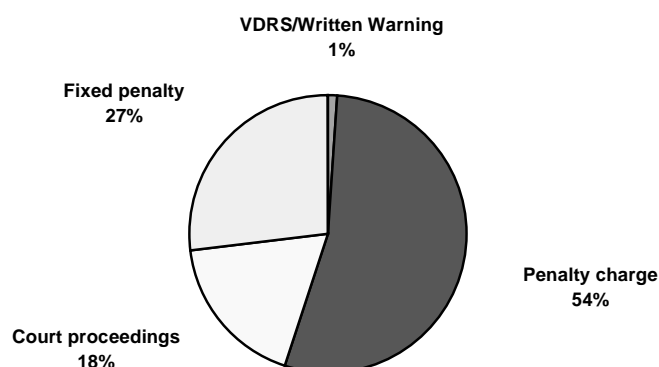
(2) Vehicle defect rectification scheme.

(3) Revised. See Note 9.

2. The total number of motoring offences dealt with by the police and parking attendants in England and Wales during 2003 was 13.2 million, a rise of 1.7 million (15 per cent) on the final 2002 figure of 11.5 million. In 2003 7.1 million (54 per cent) were penalty charge notices issued by local authority parking attendants, up 11 per cent on 2002 and reflecting the increasing number of local authorities using these powers (see note 13(k)(iii)). 3.6 million of the offences (27 per cent) were dealt with by fixed penalty notices issued by the police (including traffic wardens), up 27 per cent on the 2002 figure of 2.9 million. 2.3 million offences (18 per cent) were dealt with by court proceedings (see note 7), up nine per cent on 2002. The remaining offences were dealt with either by written warnings (57,300) which were down two per cent on 2002, or vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS) notices complied with (89,800), down two per cent on 2002.

3. The number of motoring offences dealt with during 2003, at 13.2 million, was the largest number to date. It represents 469 offences per thousand vehicles licensed in 2003, compared with 307 per thousand in 1993. The 2003 rate of 469 is 66 higher than that of the 403 offences per thousand vehicles licensed in 1997 which was the highest for that decade.

Figure 2 Motoring offences dealt with by type of action taken, 2003



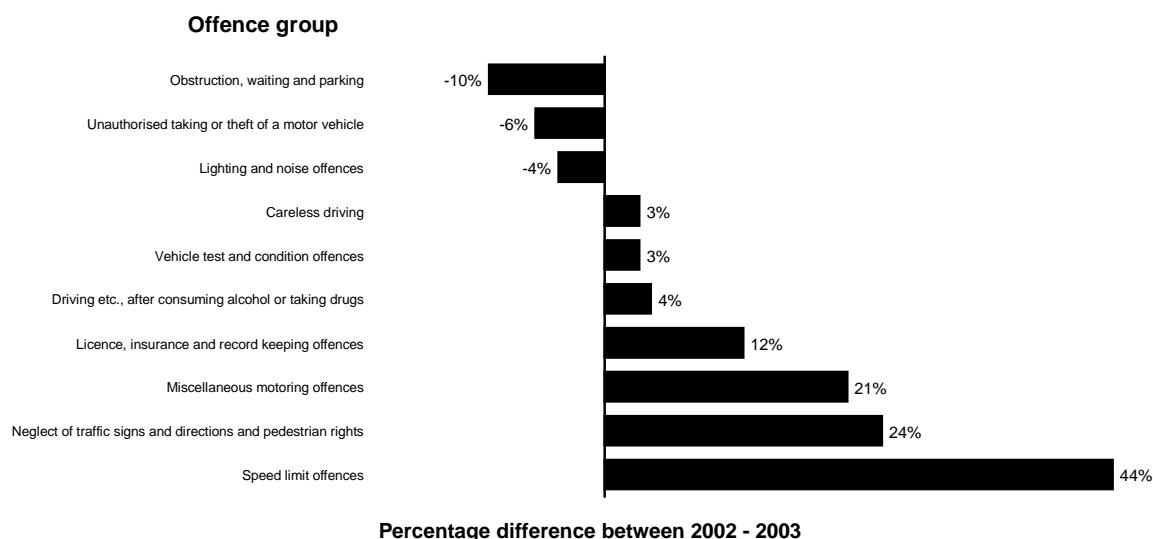
4. For motoring offences dealt with by police action (excluding penalty charge notices) Table 10 shows figures by police force for 2003. The proportion of offences dealt with by court proceedings (38 per cent for England and Wales) varies between forces, from Warwickshire who used court proceedings for 20 per cent of offences dealt with to Greater Manchester who used court proceedings for 67 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 and whether local authorities are issuing penalty charges.

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

5. In 2003 the largest group of offences dealt with were for **obstruction, waiting and parking offences** 8.2 million in all. Of these, 1.1 million were dealt with by official police action, forming the third largest proportion of motoring offences (17 per cent in 2003) dealt with by the police (including traffic wardens). The other 7.1 million offences were dealt with through penalty charge notices issued by local authority parking attendants. For further commentary regarding the trends in the use of fixed penalties and penalty charge notices for these offences, see paragraphs 15 to 19.

6. The largest offence group dealt with by police action in 2003 was for **speed limit offences** comprising 2.2 million offences, or 37 per cent of all the offences they dealt with.

Figure 3 Offences dealt with by the police, change between 2002 and 2003



7. Between 2002 and 2003, the number of offences dealt with by the police fell in only three of the 15 offence groups in Table 2, and increased in eleven. Figure 3 shows the changes in the largest groups for 2002 and 2003. The most marked change between 2002 and 2003 occurred for **speed limit offences** which were up 44 per cent. This reflects the large number of police force areas participating in the safety camera programme. Some police forces act in partnership with others. In total there were 14 partnerships at the start and 30 at the end of 2002, compared with 35 throughout 2003. Paragraph 31 gives statistics of proceedings and fixed penalties issued where the evidence was provided by safety cameras. The largest percentage falls in the figures were in relation to offences of **obstruction, waiting and parking**, down 10 per cent and **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle**, down six per cent.

8. Table 2 contains figures from 1951 to examine longer term trends. With the exception of **lighting and noise offences** the numbers in 2003 are all larger (mostly considerably so) than in 1951, as would be expected from the large increase in

licensed vehicles over this period. This offence was five times more often subject to police action in 1971 and 1981 than in 2003. There have been some reductions in recent decades. For example, the number of offences of **careless driving** rose from 29,100 in 1951 to 180,000 in 1981 and then gradually fell to 83,900 in 2002 although there has been a slight upturn in 2003 to 86,300. Within this offence group, police action for the new specific offence of driving whilst using a hand held mobile phone, introduced as from 1 December 2003, shows a national total of 1,900 offences for the one month period.

9. Other offence groups which have shown long term reductions are **load offences**, and **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** which were both highest in 1991. There was however a reversal of the trend in long term reductions for **dangerous driving, driving etc after consuming alcohol or drugs**, and **licence, insurance and record keeping offences**.

10. **Offences peculiar to motor cycles** increased by 11 per cent to 4,200 from 3,800 in 2002. This follows a decrease of 10 per cent between 2001 and 2002.

11. The number of **miscellaneous motoring offences** dealt with peaked in 1997 at 280,000 but since then there have been small reductions each year although there was a rise in 2001 which reflected a large increase in prosecutions under sections 172(3) and 172(4) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 – persons keeping vehicle failing to give driver's name and address on demand. There was a further large increase between 2002 and 2003 by 21 per cent to 266,700. 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 13.

THE WAY OFFENCES ARE DEALT WITH (Table B)

12. Table B shows that 18 per cent of offences were dealt with by court proceedings during 2003 (same as in 2002), whilst 81 per cent were dealt with by fixed penalty notices or penalty charge notices (same as in 2002). 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 disposal 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, 92 per cent of **speed limit offences** were so dealt with in 2003 (up from 90 per cent in 2002). Fixed penalty notices dealt with 83 per cent of offences of **neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights** (up from 80 per cent in 2002). The detailed figures from which Table B is derived are included in Table 1 of the Supplementary tables (see note 22).

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 (when 201,000 were issued). Since then the number of offences dropped rapidly to 58,700 in 2002 and 57,300 in 2003. Table B above shows that **lighting and noise offences** and **careless driving** were more likely than other offences to be dealt with by written warning. In contrast, Table 3 shows that the numbers of written warnings issued; it can be seen that they were most frequently used for **licence, insurance and record keeping offences** (13,400 or 23 per cent of written warnings), **vehicle test and condition offences** (9,200 or 16 per cent of written warnings) and for **dangerous, careless or drunken driving etc** (7,600 or 13 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 to a figure of 123,000 in 2003. Seventy-three per cent (89,800) of VDRS notices were complied with in 2003, a rise of two percentage points from 2002. Notices not complied with are liable to lead to further action (e.g. court proceedings).

Table B Motoring Offences (proportionally) dealt with by official action(1) by offence group

England and Wales 2002 & 2003										Percentages	
Offence group	Court Proceedings ⁽²⁾		Written Warnings		VDRS Notice		Fixed penalty / Penalty charge notices issued ⁽³⁾		Total (thousands = 100%)		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	
Causing death or bodily harm	100	100	-	0	*	*	*	*	0.5	0.5	
Dangerous driving	100	100	0	0	*	*	*	*	10.7	11.4	
Driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	100	100	0	0	*	*	*	*	102.1	105.7	
Careless driving	52	49	9	9	*	*	39	43	83.9	86.3	
Accident offences	94	95	6	5	*	*	*	*	30.1	31.1	
Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	89	88	11 ⁽⁴⁾	12 ⁽⁴⁾	*	*	*	*	52.1	48.7	
Licence, insurance & record keeping offences	95	94	1	1	*	*	4	5	1,247.7	1,398.5	
Vehicle test offences	98	98	2	2	*	*	0	0	364.9	381.6	
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	27	26	1	1	66	67	5	7	137.7	134.2	
Speed limit offences	9	7	0	0	*	*	90	92	1,557.9	2,248.5	
Neglect of traffic signs & directions & pedestrian rights	18	16	1	1	*	*	80	83	220.1	273.0	
Obstruction, waiting & parking offences	0	0	0	0	*	*	100	100	7,599.0	8,186.3	
Lighting & noise offences	44	43	8	10	*	*	47	48	43.7	41.9	
Load Offences	81	80	3	3	*	*	15	17	13.1	13.8	
Offences peculiar to motor cycles	63	60	8	6	*	*	29	33	3.8	4.2	
Miscellaneous	37	41	2	2	*	*	61	57	220.4	266.7	
Total	18	18	0	0	1	1	81	81	11,687.7	13,232.4	

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

(2) Total proceedings at magistrates' courts.

(3) Fixed penalty and penalty charge notices issued.

(4) Cautions data has been included.

FIXED PENALTY NOTICES AND PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES (Tables C, 5 to 7, 22 and 23)

15. The total number of fixed penalty notices issued by the police (including traffic wardens) has fallen from 4.2 million in 1993 to 2.9 million in 2001: there was a small (three per cent) increase between 2001 and 2002 followed by a further 21 per cent increase between 2002 and 2003 rising to 3.6 million. Increases were observed for six out of eight of the offence groups shown in Table 5 between 2002 and 2003, the exceptions being: **obstruction, waiting and parking offences** (down 10 per cent) and **lighting and noise offences** (down three per cent).

16. **Obstruction, waiting and parking offences** were dealt with both by fixed penalty notices and penalty charge notices. There were 1.0 million fixed penalty notices issued by the police in 2003, 122,000 or 10 per cent fewer than in 2002. The fall can be attributed mainly to more local authorities issuing penalty charge notices. 7.1 million parking offences were dealt with in 2003 (an increase of 11 per cent on 2002) by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. This method was first used in 1994 and is provided for under the 1991 Road Traffic Act (see also note 13(k)(iii)).

17. Table C shows that the use of fixed penalties for **obstruction, waiting and parking offences** in London had been, by 2003, all but superseded by the use of penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. Although there was substantial increase in London of the use of fixed penalty notices for the offence from 143,000 in 2002 to 210,000 in 2003 (up 47 per cent). The use of fixed penalty notices for these offences had begun to decline before 1994, in anticipation of penalty charge notices being introduced. The detailed figures, for 1999 to 2003, from which those in Table C are derived are included in Tables 22 and 23. A further breakdown, by local authority area, is published in Tables 22(a) and 22(b) of the Supplementary tables (see note 22). The police have the power to issue non-motoring fixed penalty notices for eleven disorder offences under section 1 to 11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Statistics on these orders are not covered in this publication.

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

England and Wales		Thousands					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Fixed penalty notices							
Metropolitan & City of London Police	162	206	193	197	142	143	210
Other police forces	2,038	1,912	1,615	1,398	1,183	1,022	833
Total	2,199	2,118	1,808	1,595	1,325	1,165	1,043
Penalty charge notices							
London	3,686	3,733	3,664	4,021	4,222	4,799	5,053
Other local authorities ⁽¹⁾	83	138	292	634	1,081	1,614	2,070
Total	3,769	3,872	3,956	4,655	5,303	6,413	7,123
Total fixed penalties & penalty charge notices	5,968	5,990	5,764	6,251	6,628	7,578	8,166

(1) From 1997 to 2002 England only.

18. A final analysis of results of fixed penalty notices issued in 2003 is not yet complete; this is because there is a time delay in forces receiving final information on outcome i.e. whether paid after charge certificate served or guilty from adjudication. However, provisional estimates suggest that 86 per cent of the fixed penalty notices issued by the police in 2003 were paid and a fine was automatically registered at court for a further 10 per cent. These rates show a small but steady increase in the number of fixed penalties paid since 1993 when the figures was 71 per cent. Fixed penalties are more likely to be paid if the offence is endorsable. In 2003 it is estimated that 99 per cent of fixed penalty notices issued for endorsable offences were paid without further enforcement, compared with 72 per cent (non-endorsable, driver present) and 67 per cent (non-endorsable, driver absent).

19. Of the total number of penalty charge notices dealt with in 2003, 48 per cent were paid within 14 days and a further 12 per cent were paid after 14 days but before enforcement. This compares with 44 per cent and 12 per cent respectively in 2002. In London in 2003, 47 per cent were paid within 14 days and a further 12 per cent were paid after 14 days but before enforcement. This compares with 43 per cent and 11 per cent in 2002. The total number of penalty charge certificates registered in 2003 decreased by 15 per cent from 1.2 million in 2002 to 1.0 million in 2003.

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

20. The number of proceedings at magistrates' courts for offences relating to motor vehicles rose by nine per cent between 2002 and 2003 to 2.3 million. Proceedings were most often taken for **licence, insurance and record keeping offences**, amounting to 1.6 million such offences in 2003, compared to 1.2 million in 2003.

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, for the first time in four years, a rise in the number of prosecutions, from 154,700 in 2000 to 165,500 in 2003, up seven 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) showed a rise of seven per cent from 40,000 in 2002 to 42,800 in 2003 (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 3.1 of 'Criminal statistics, England and Wales 2003',⁽¹⁾ which allows comparisons to be made with defendants proceeded against for non-motoring

offences (see also note 10). Research suggests that groups of offences dealt with together in court generally arise from a single traffic incident (rather than from other events)⁽²⁾.

23. 67 per cent of all court proceedings for motoring offences resulted in findings of guilt in 2003, up two percentage points on 2002. In total there were 1,550,000 findings of guilt in 2003, 12 per cent higher than the figure of 1,383,000 in 2002 (see Note 6 and 7).

24. Table 12 shows that in 2003 nearly nine in ten of those found guilty of motoring offences were male. The highest percentage of males were recorded for offences of **dangerous driving** (96 per cent), **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** (95 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** (24 per cent), **speed limit offences** (18 per cent) and **miscellaneous motoring offences** (16 per cent). Disproportionate numbers of offenders were aged under 21 for offences of **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** (68 per cent) and for **offences peculiar to motor cycles** (77 per cent) which includes driving or riding on a motor cycle without wearing protective headgear and unlawful pillion riding.

25. In 2003, around 85 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 (67 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 (35,800) than the Crown Court (8,000). A substantial proportion of proceedings (24 per cent in 2003) result in the offence being 'not separately dealt with', because a sentence or order has been imposed for another offence. This has become more common over the last ten years.

26. The average fine imposed at magistrates' courts during 2003 was £124 (Table 14). When inflation is taken into account, however, there was a fall in real

terms from £98 in 2002 to £96 for the year 2003 (at 1993 prices). The average fines, in 2003, varied from £127 for **speed limit offences** to £294 for **dangerous driving**.

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**. The offence most likely to be dealt with by a custodial sentence was **causing death or bodily harm** – 90 per cent up from 84 per cent in 2002. 46 per cent of convictions for **dangerous driving** attracted sentences of immediate custody, down two percentage points on 2002. Similarly, custodial sentences given on conviction for **driving while disqualified** also fell, from 49 per cent in 2002 to 45 per cent in 2003.

DISQUALIFICATIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS (Tables 16 and 17)

28. During 2003, there were 191,000 disqualifications for specific motoring offences in England and Wales up 7,400 on 2002. A further 33,200 persons were disqualified under the penalty points or 'totting up' system, a small increase on the figure of 30,500 recorded in 2002. In 2003 87,000 persons were disqualified for **driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs** a rise of 2,100 from 2002. The number of disqualifications for this offence peaked at 103,000 in 1989 and steadily declined until 1994, since then it has been relatively stable.

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.

30. Forty-one per cent of disqualifications in 2003 were for more than one year, including 69 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 59 per cent in 1996.

TRAFFIC CAMERAS (Table D)

31. In 2003 cameras of all types provided evidence for 1.9 million motoring offences, an increase of 45 per cent on 2002, reflecting mainly the large number of police force areas participating in the safety camera programme. Some police forces act in partnership with others. In total there were 14 partnerships at the start and 30 at the end of 2002, compared with 35 throughout 2003. In 2003, 93 per cent of offences were **speeding offences**, with the remainder being **traffic light offences**. Overall, camera devices were used to provide evidence in 2003 for 79 per cent of cases where the police took official action for **speeding offences** and for 46 per cent cases of **neglect of traffic signs and directions and pedestrian rights**, (which includes traffic light offences). The majority of these offences (93 per cent) were dealt with by fixed penalty.

32. The national safety camera programme, which allows some fine revenue received by magistrates' courts from fixed penalties for speeding, or jumping red traffic lights, to be used to meet the costs of operating speed and traffic signal cameras, was launched nationally in August 2001. This followed a successful pilot of the scheme in seven police force areas in England and Wales. All forces in England and Wales participated in the programme during 2003 with the exception of Durham, Merseyside, North Yorkshire and Surrey (see also note 13(I)).

Table D Fixed penalties and prosecutions for offences detected by cameras⁽¹⁾

England and Wales	Number of offences						
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Speeding offences							
Fixed penalty ⁽²⁾	288,600	338,800	423,000	599,200 ⁽³⁾	877,500	1,135,400	1,657,000
Prosecutions	48,100	65,100	75,800	109,200	137,100	100,100 ⁽⁴⁾	127,400
Total	336,700	403,800	498,600	699,400 ⁽³⁾	1,014,600	1,235,500 ⁽⁴⁾	1,784,500
Traffic light offences							
Fixed penalty ⁽²⁾	34,800	31,800	37,100	52,200	45,500	70,900	115,000
Prosecutions	18,800	11,800	14,900	15,900	11,100	13,200 ⁽⁴⁾	10,600
Total	53,300	43,500	52,000	68,100	56,600	84,100 ⁽⁴⁾	125,600
All offences							
Fixed penalty ⁽²⁾	323,200	370,500	460,100	642,400 ⁽³⁾	923,000	1,206,300	1,772,000
Prosecutions	66,900	76,800	90,500	125,700	148,200	113,400 ⁽⁴⁾	138,000
Total	390,000	447,400	550,600	768,100 ⁽³⁾	1,071,200	1,319,700 ⁽⁴⁾	1,910,000

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

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

(3) Revised (see note 9).

(4) Revised (see note 6).

BREATH TESTS

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

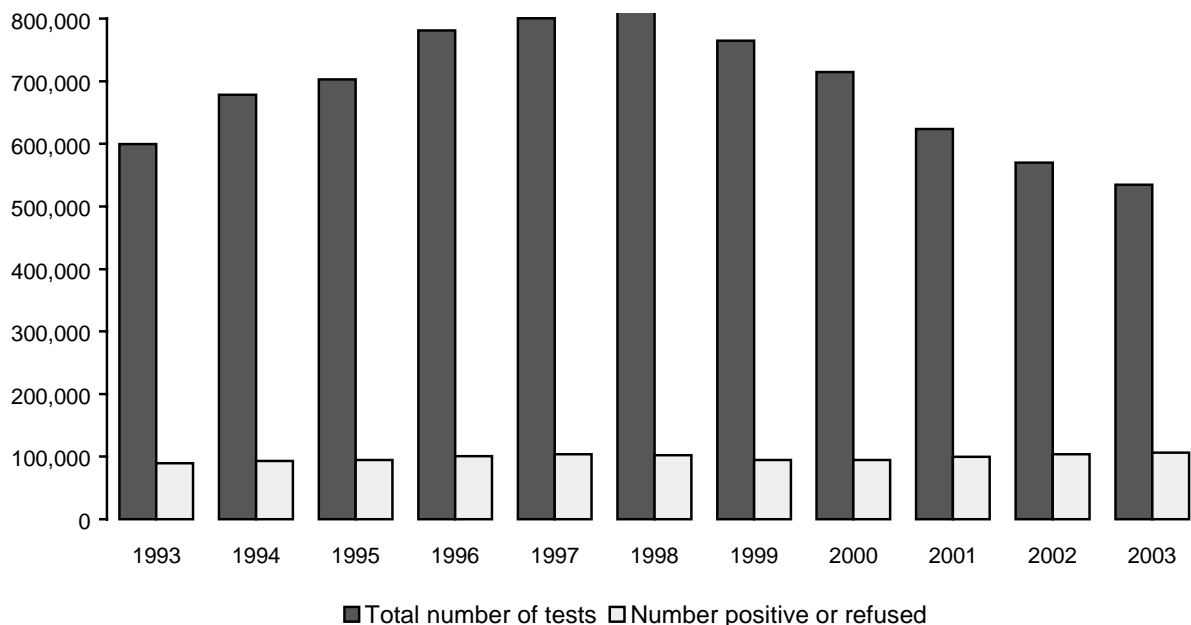
Table E Number of screening breath tests by outcome

England and Wales	Thousands and percentage changes						
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total number of tests	800.3 ⁽¹⁾	815.5	764.5	714.8	623.9	570.2	534.3
<i>Percentage (%) change on previous year</i>	+2.5	+ 1.9	- 6.3	- 6.5	-12.7	-8.6	-6.3
Of which positive/refused	103.5	102.3	94.1	94.6	99.5	103.5	106.3
<i>Percentage (%) change on previous year</i>	+3.0	- 1.1	- 8.1	+ 0.5	+ 5.2	+4.0	+2.7

(1) Total number of tests revised since publication of 1997 bulletin. See note 16 for details.

33. During 2003, 534,000 screening breath tests were carried out by police officers. This is a decrease of six per cent on the 570,000 screening tests recorded during 2002.

Figure 4 Screening breath tests by outcome



34. The number of positive or refused tests was 106,000 in 2003, a rise of three per cent from 2002 (103,000). The proportion of tests positive or refused in 2003 was, at 20 per cent, two percentage points higher than in 2002 and higher than in 1993. However, despite this increase the current proportion remains a lot lower than the level in 1979 when 51 per cent of the 164,000 tested were either positive, refused, or were unable to be tested.

35. Department for Transport figures show that between 1998-2000 the number of people killed or seriously injured in accidents involving illegal alcohol levels remained steady at around 3,000 but rose by five per cent in 2001 to 3,220 and then again increased by four per cent in 2002 to 3,340. Provisional estimates suggest a six per cent decrease for 2003 to 3,140⁽³⁾.

SEASONAL VARIATION (Tables 19 and 20)

36. In 2003 14 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 nearly twice the average number carried out in other months, the number of positive or refused tests at 9,300 was the second highest with October recording the highest level at 9,400. The proportion of screening tests which, were positive or refused during December was 12 per cent, which is just over 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 390 in Hertfordshire to 3,390 in Derbyshire. Figure 5 shows details for 2003. Forces with the highest number of tests per 100,000 population were Derbyshire, North Wales and Hampshire. The proportion of tests, which are positive or refused also varies by force, from five per cent in Derbyshire to 52 per cent in Hertfordshire. Figure 6 shows police force areas by the number of positive or refused tests per 100,000 population in 2003. Forces with the highest rates of

positive tests per 100,000 population were Thames Valley, Greater Manchester, Gloucestershire and South Wales.

- (1) See Command Paper 6361 'Criminal statistics, England and Wales 2003' (The Stationery Office November 2004)
- (2) See 'The Criminal Histories of Serious Traffic Offenders' by Gerry Rose (Home Office Research Study 206)
- (3) See DfT 'Road Casualties Great Britain: 2003 - Annual Report' (The Stationery Office September 2004)

Figure 5 Total tests per 100,000 population by police force area 2003

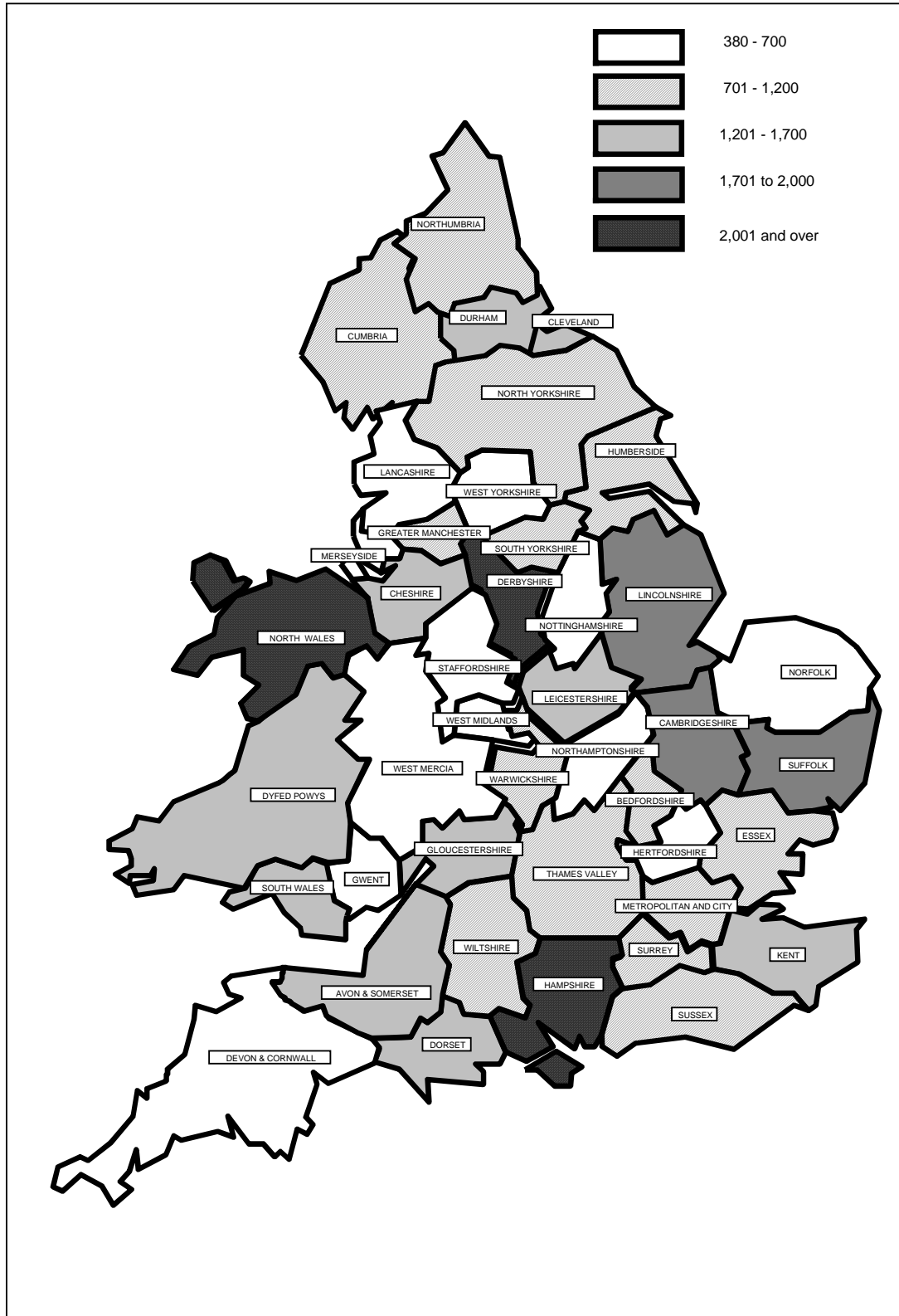


Table 1 Summary of action taken for offences relating to motor vehicles: written warnings, vehicle defect rectification scheme, fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices and court proceedings

England and Wales													Thousands of offences
Type of action :	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Written warnings issued	151	274	238	326	231	188	201	161	127	109	87	59	57
Vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS) notices complied with ⁽¹⁾	*	*	*	*	196	207	210	192	168	127	102	91	90
Fixed penalty not paid, no further action taken ⁽¹⁾	*	1,544	498	281	269	240	235	208	148	116	145 ⁽³⁾
Fixed penalty paid	*	..	..	2,593	4,014	2,530	2,649	2,691	2,427 ⁽²⁾	2,391 ⁽²⁾	2,366 ⁽²⁾	2,416	3,128 ⁽³⁾
Fine registration certificate	*	*	*	*	1,134	508	498	472	407	371	369	322	364 ⁽³⁾
Total dealt with by fixed penalty notice/fine registration	*	102	102	4,137	5,647	3,318	3,416	3,403	3,069 ⁽²⁾	2,969 ⁽²⁾	2,882 ⁽²⁾	2,853	3,637 ⁽³⁾
Penalty charge notices issued ⁽⁴⁾	*	*	*	*	*	3,523	3,769	3,872	3,956	4,655	5,303	6,413	7,123
Magistrates' court proceedings: ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾													
Proceedings discontinued, charges withdrawn or dismissed, etc	18	35	113	331	741	788	756	735	710	695	695	739	770
Findings of guilt after summary trial	366	922	1,553	2,086	1,527	1,477	1,460	1,454	1,407	1,356	1,317	1,372	1,538
Crown Court trial proceedings:													
Acquittals or not tried	-	1	3	4	5	4	4	3	3	3	3 ⁽⁷⁾	3	4
Findings of guilt	-	2	9	16	19	15	16	10	8	8	9 ⁽⁷⁾	11	11
Total dealt with by court proceedings	385	959	1,679	2,437	2,294	2,284	2,236	2,203	2,128	2,063	2,024 ⁽⁷⁾	2,124	2,324
Total dealt with by cautions, VDRS, fixed penalties, penalty charge notices or court proceedings	536	1,335	3,907	6,900	8,368	9,520	9,832	9,831	9,448 ⁽²⁾	9,923 ⁽²⁾	10,398 ⁽²⁾	11,541	13,231
Vehicles currently licensed (millions) ⁽⁸⁾	4.2 ⁽⁹⁾	9.0 ⁽⁹⁾	14.0 ⁽⁹⁾	15.3	22.7	23.7	24.4	25.5	26.2	26.2	27.0	27.7	28.2

(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) Revised. See Note 9.

(3) Details of whether fixed penalties were paid, or court proceedings instituted in respect of them etc. are not yet complete for 2003; the figures shown are estimates based on total notices issued.

(4) See Note 13(k)(iii).

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

(6) Known shortfalls in proceedings for certain summary motoring offences from 1998-2003. See Notes 6 & 7

(7) Revised. See Note 6.

(8) Source: Department for Transport.

(9) Figures relate to Great Britain.

Table 2 Motoring offences ^{(1) (2)} dealt with by official police action ⁽³⁾

England and Wales		Thousands of offences												
Offence group	Offence type	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1	Causing death or bodily harm	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
2	Dangerous driving	4.9	10.9	10.7	6.8	12.2	10.4	10.4	10.1	9.5	9.2	9.6	10.7	11.4
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	3.4	7.5	46.0	82.4	119.1	108.4	112.5	104.4	99.7	96.3	96.1	102.1	105.7
4	Careless driving	29.1	84.6	139.4	180.5	128.8	99.0	102.8	99.8	97.7	94.8	91.7	83.9	86.3
5	Accident offences	8.6	19.9	30.9	57.5	53.9	32.8	32.5	31.6	29.9	29.0	30.4	30.1	31.1
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	12.3	32.4	52.6	75.9	95.1	63.2	58.4	57.0	56.7	50.7	51.0	52.1	48.7
7,9-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	110.9	330.4	650.7	1,057.6	1,267.0	1,304.1	1,277.9	1,255.4	1,227.5	1,201.2	1,177.4	1,247.7	1,398.5
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	36.5	57.6	315.4	408.0	624.7	704.5	683.9	649.3	603.7	538.8	496.2	502.7	515.8
16	Speed limit offences	83.3	147.4	272.1	343.6	637.0	761.4	891.2	975.1	995.3 ⁽⁴⁾	1,121.1 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	1,318.8 ⁽⁴⁾	1,557.9 ⁽⁴⁾	2,248.5
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	60.9	170.4	132.5	241.1	320.7	286.3	291.6	279.8	249.6 ⁽⁴⁾	234.9 ⁽⁴⁾	220.7 ⁽⁴⁾	220.1 ⁽⁴⁾	273.0
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁶⁾	89.0	300.8	1,975.7	4,211.7	4,760.5	2,309.5	2,226.8	2,146.8	1,836.0	1,619.1	1,348.0	1,185.9	1,063.7
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	66.9	115.6	229.8	227.7	88.1	69.7	76.1	77.6	68.9	55.6	45.6	43.7	41.9
23	Load offences	5.5	11.4	17.7	35.9	44.1	27.0	25.2	25.5	21.1	18.6	15.8	13.1	13.8
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	0.9	3.4	1.7	19.6	7.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.2	3.8	4.2
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽⁷⁾	23.7	41.8	31.5	131.0	237.8	249.0	279.9	278.1	258.1	223.1	227.7	220.4	266.7
	Total	536.2	1,334.5	3,907.3	7,079.4	8,396.6	6,030.1	6,074.0	5,995.0	5,558.1 ⁽⁴⁾	5,296.9 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	5,133.8 ⁽⁴⁾	5,274.6 ⁽⁴⁾	6,109.8

(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 has 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) Revised. See Note 9.

(5) Revised. See Note 9.

(6) In addition, 7,122,574 penalty charge notices were issued in 2003 by local authorities for parking offences. See Note 13(k)(iii).

(7) Includes the following number of seat belt offences in 2003: 4,990 court proceedings, 145,294 fixed penalties and 3,911 written warnings.

Table 3 Written warnings by offence group

England and Wales		Thousands of offences									
Offence group	Offence type	1993	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1-4	Dangerous, careless or drunken driving etc. ⁽¹⁾	22	20	21	23	18	15	11	10	8	8
5	Accident offences	5	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle ⁽¹⁾	9	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	6	6
7,9-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	53	43	41	36	31	26	23	19	14	13
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	48	41	34	34	27	20	16	14	9	9
16	Speed limit offences	24	31	27	35	28	22	24	17	7	6
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	12	16	13	16	11	8	7	4	3	3
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	4	3	4	4	4	3	2	2	2	1
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	13	13	14	17	15	11	7	5	4	4
23	Load offences	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	15	16	18	22	15	12	8	6	4	5
	Total	212	198	188	201	161	127	109	87	59	57
Number of persons ⁽²⁾ (thousands)		166	155	143	157	135	106	92	75	52	50

(1) Cautions data has been included.

(2) See note 10.

Table 4 Vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS) notices issued⁽¹⁾ and complied with⁽²⁾, by quarter

England and Wales		Thousands and percentages	
Year	VDRS notices issued ⁽¹⁾	Notices complied with ⁽²⁾	
		No	%
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
2001	142	102	72
2002	128	91	71
2003	123	90	73
2002 1st quarter	38.0	27.5	72
2nd quarter	30.7	21.1	69
3rd quarter	27.4	19.2	70
4th quarter	32.0	23.6	74
2003 1st quarter	33.0	24.6	74
2nd quarter	30.9	21.7	70
3rd quarter	26.6	19.6	74
4th quarter	32.0	23.9	75

(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	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
7,9,10	Licence,insurance ⁽¹⁾ and record keeping offences	49	43	43	48	47	50	68	49	50	50	67
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	11	12	13	15	17	17	14	10	9	8	10
16	Speed limit offences	395	472	530	595	713	781	805 ⁽²⁾	942 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	1,151 ⁽²⁾	1,407 ⁽²⁾	2,077
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	184	201	208	216	224	219	195 ⁽²⁾	183 ⁽²⁾	175 ⁽²⁾	177 ⁽²⁾	227
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽³⁾	3,383	2,698	2,271	2,282	2,199	2,118	1,808	1,595	1,325	1,165	1,043
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	19	18	17	21	26	30	28	23	20	21	20
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽⁵⁾	117	117	131	160	184	200	185	159	149	134	152
4,23,24	Other offences	9	12	12	14	18	24	31	36	38	36	40
Total		4,166	3,574	3,225	3,352	3,428	3,440	3,134 ⁽²⁾	2,998 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	2,918 ⁽²⁾	2,997 ⁽²⁾	3,637

(1) As from 1 June 2003 the offence of having no insurance, contrary to s143 Road Traffic Act 1988 was added to the road traffic fixed penalty offence system

(2) Revised. See Note 9.

(3) Revised. See Note 9.

(4) In addition, 7.1m offences were dealt with in 2003 by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. See note 13(k)(iii).

(5) The majority of these offences are seat-belt offences, 145,300 in 2003.

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

England and Wales											
	Percentage of notices issued										
Result	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 ⁽¹⁾
Penalty paid	71	73	74	76	77	78	79	80	82	84	86
No further action	10	9	9	8	8	7	8	7	5	4	4
Fine registered	19	17	16	15	14	14	13	12	13	11	10
Referred for court proceedings	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Total notices dealt with ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	4,166	3,574	3,225	3,352	3,428	3,440	3,089 ⁽⁴⁾	2,984 ⁽⁴⁾	2,897 ⁽⁴⁾	2,866	3,600
(Thousands, = 100 %)											

(1) The analysis of results of fixed penalty notices is not yet complete for 2003. The percentages shown are estimates based on the total notices issued.

(2) Between 1993 and 1998 total notices *issued* given as data by *result* was not sufficiently robust to show national figure.

(3) In addition, of the 7.1m penalty charge notices issued by local authorities for parking offences in 2003, 6.7m were dealt with. See Tables 22 and 23 and Note 13(k)(iii).

(4) Revised. See Note 9.

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

England and Wales											Percentages	
Year	Endorsable ⁽¹⁾			Non-endorsable						All notices		
	Metro-politan Police	Other forces	All forces	Driver present			Driver absent ⁽²⁾			Metro-politan Police	Other forces	All forces
				Metro-politan Police	Other forces	All forces	Metro-politan Police	Other forces	All forces			
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	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	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	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	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	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	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	96.5	97.1	97.1	72.8	73.1	73.1	62.5	71.8	70.7	71.7	81.3	80.4
2001	97.8	98.4	98.4	71.4	72.4	72.3	59.1	70.2	68.9	71.6	83.2	82.2
2002	98.2	98.7	98.7	71.3	73.7	73.4	59.4	70.2	68.8	72.9	85.4	84.3
2003 ⁽³⁾	98.5	99.2	99.1	73.6	71.3	71.6	60.5	70.0	66.7	73.4	88.3	86.0

(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, i.e. 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) The analysis of results of fixed penalty notices is not yet complete for 2003. The figures shown are estimates based on total notices issued.

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

England and Wales		Thousands of offences												
Offence group	Offence type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2002				2003			
							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:⁽¹⁾														
1	Causing death or bodily harm	0.5	0.5	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	9.4	9.1	9.5	10.7	11.3	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.7
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	99.5	96.2	96.0	102.0	105.7	25.8	24.5	26.0	25.7	27.0	25.9	26.6	26.1
4	Careless driving ⁽¹⁾	56.4	51.5	47.5	43.8	42.1	11.7	11.2	10.8	10.1	11.1	10.5	10.5	10.0
5	Accident offences	27.3	26.7	28.1	28.4	29.5	7.4	7.2	6.9	6.9	7.9	7.4	7.4	6.9
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	49.9	44.2	44.3	46.1	43.0	12.3	11.7	11.4	10.7	11.4	10.9	11.0	9.7
[7,9 ⁽²⁾ ,10(pt),11,12,14]	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences ⁽¹⁾	1,132.6	1,128.2	1,107.5	1,183.1	1,088.9	298.1	295.8	299.9	289.4	320.2	314.3	230.4	224.1
13	Vehicle test offences ⁽¹⁾	340.0	333.7	328.0	356.2	372.1	90.1	89.6	90.6	85.9	94.1	89.5	97.3	91.2
25(pt) ⁽³⁾	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽¹⁾	54.8	50.3	66.9	77.1	104.5	20.0	19.5	18.2	19.4	23.1	22.4	28.0	30.9
	Sub-total	<u>1,770.3</u>	<u>1,740.3</u>	<u>1,728.3</u>	<u>1,847.9</u>	<u>1,797.7</u>	<u>468.1</u>	<u>462.4</u>	<u>466.6</u>	<u>450.8</u>	<u>497.8</u>	<u>483.9</u>	<u>414.3</u>	<u>401.8</u>
Offences for which a fixed penalty notice can be given:⁽⁴⁾														
9(pt) ⁽²⁾	Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	*	*	*	*	557.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	117.7	110.4
10(pt)	Motor vehicle licence obscured or not affixed	0.8	0.7	0.7	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 ⁽⁴⁾	62.3	51.5	43.0	37.8	34.6	10.3	9.4	9.2	8.9	8.9	8.2	9.1	8.3
16	Speed limit offences ⁽⁴⁾	168.1	154.7	150.3	144.2	165.5	38.3	33.7	34.9	37.2	38.3	39.0	42.6	45.6
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights ⁽⁴⁾	46.9	45.5	41.8	40.0	42.8	10.1	10.0	10.0	9.9	10.9	10.4	11.2	10.4
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁴⁾	24.9	21.6	21.3	19.4	19.9	5.1	5.0	4.7	4.6	5.0	5.2	4.9	4.7
21,22	Lighting and noise offences ⁽⁴⁾	29.9	25.5	20.6	19.4	17.8	5.2	5.2	4.8	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.1
23	Load offences ⁽⁴⁾	16.6	14.8	12.8	10.6	11.0	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.9
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles ⁽⁴⁾	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
25(pt)	Seat belt offences	6.9	5.7	5.2	4.7	5.0	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3
	Sub-total	<u>358.8</u>	<u>322.6</u>	<u>298.4</u>	<u>279.2</u>	<u>527.8</u>	<u>73.7</u>	<u>68.1</u>	<u>68.0</u>	<u>69.3</u>	<u>72.4</u>	<u>72.0</u>	<u>195.0</u>	<u>188.4</u>
	Total	<u>2,129.1</u>	<u>2,062.9</u>	<u>2,026.7</u>	<u>2,127.0</u>	<u>2,325.6</u>	<u>541.8</u>	<u>530.5</u>	<u>534.6</u>	<u>520.1</u>	<u>570.2</u>	<u>555.9</u>	<u>609.3</u>	<u>590.1</u>

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

(2) As from 1 June 2003 the offence of having no insurance, contrary to s143 Road Traffic Act 1988 was added to the road traffic fixed penalty offence system

(3) As from 1 June 2003 the offence of failure to supply details necessary to identify an offending driver, contrary to s172 Road Traffic Act 1988 was added to the road traffic fixed penalty system. However the offence cannot be separately identified from other miscellaneous summary motoring offences within the same sub classification code

(4) 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⁽¹⁾

England and Wales		Thousands of defendants												
Offence group	Offence type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2002				2003			
							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:⁽¹⁾														
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	84.8	82.2	82.2	87.5	90.0	22.1	21.1	22.2	22.1	22.9	22.1	22.6	22.4
4	Careless driving ⁽²⁾	40.1	35.9	32.7	29.3	27.2	7.8	7.6	7.3	6.6	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.5
5	Accident offences	8.5	8.2	8.8	8.7	9.1	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1
[7,9 ⁽³⁾ ,10(pt),11,12]	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences ⁽²⁾	321.6	328.9	328.6	355.2	246.2	88.8	89.1	90.9	86.4	92.9	95.3	30.1	27.8
13	Vehicle test offences ⁽²⁾	37.0	33.2	30.2	30.8	41.9	7.5	8.0	8.1	7.2	11.2	10.7	10.3	9.7
25(pt) ⁽⁴⁾	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽²⁾	59.1	62.4	61.7	69.4	82.7	17.3	18.1	16.5	17.6	17.8	17.5	22.4	25.0
	Sub-total	<u>551.0</u>	<u>550.7</u>	<u>544.1</u>	<u>580.9</u>	<u>497.1</u>	<u>145.8</u>	<u>146.0</u>	<u>147.1</u>	<u>141.9</u>	<u>154.4</u>	<u>154.7</u>	<u>94.5</u>	<u>93.5</u>
Offences for which a fixed penalty notice can be given:⁽⁵⁾														
9(pt) ⁽³⁾	Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	*	*	*	*	140.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	72.3	68.6
10(pt)	Motor vehicle licence obscured or not affixed	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition ⁽⁵⁾	21.8	18.3	14.6	12.5	11.7	3.4	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.1	2.8
16	Speed limit offences ⁽⁵⁾	156.6	145.0	140.3	132.4	148.9	35.1	31.0	32.1	34.2	34.2	35.3	38.7	40.7
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights ⁽⁵⁾	35.4	34.8	31.2	28.9	27.9	7.4	7.3	7.2	6.9	7.4	6.9	7.1	6.6
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁵⁾	22.9	19.6	19.0	17.6	17.7	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.3
21,22	Lighting and noise offences ⁽⁵⁾	7.6	6.0	4.8	4.4	4.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.8
23	Load offences ⁽⁵⁾	11.2	10.5	8.9	7.4	7.5	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.7	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.9
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles ⁽⁵⁾	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
25(pt)	Seat belt offences	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
	Sub-total	<u>258.0</u>	<u>236.2</u>	<u>220.7</u>	<u>204.9</u>	<u>360.5</u>	<u>54.0</u>	<u>49.8</u>	<u>49.8</u>	<u>51.3</u>	<u>52.4</u>	<u>53.2</u>	<u>128.9</u>	<u>126.1</u>
	Total	809.0	786.9	764.8	785.8	857.6	199.8	195.8	196.9	193.3	206.8	207.8	223.5	219.5

(1) This table breaks down the figures published in Table 3.1 of "Criminal statistics, England and Wales, 2003" (Cm 6361). 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) As from 1 June 2003 the offence of having no insurance, contrary to s143 Road Traffic Act 1988 was added to the road traffic fixed penalty system

(4) As from 1 June 2003 the offence of failure to supply details necessary to identify an offending driver, contrary to s172 Road Traffic Act 1988 was added to the road traffic fixed penalty system. However the offence cannot be separately identified from other miscellaneous summary motoring offences within the same sub classification code

(5) 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 2003

Number of offences and percentages

Police force area	Numbers					Percentages			
	Total = 100%	Written warnings ⁽¹⁾	VDRS notices ⁽²⁾	Fixed penalty notices issued	Court proceedings ⁽³⁾	Written warnings	VDRS notices	Fixed penalty notices issued	Court proceedings ⁽³⁾
Avon and Somerset	229,700	1,700	5,200	132,000	90,900	0.7	2.3	57.5	39.6
Bedfordshire	103,500	200	500	72,600	30,100	0.2	0.5	70.2	29.1
Cambridgeshire	72,700	200	800	55,100	16,600	0.3	1.0	75.8	22.9
Cheshire	87,100	300	900	53,100	32,800	0.4	1.0	61.0	37.6
Cleveland	74,600	3,700	2,600	36,900	31,400	4.9	3.5	49.5	42.1
Cumbria	52,300	700	1,300	30,000	20,200	1.4	2.5	57.4	38.7
Derbyshire	154,300	1,100	8,700	110,700	33,700	0.7	5.6	71.8	21.9
Devon and Cornwall	234,700	100	4,900	163,000	66,700	0.1	2.1	69.5	28.4
Dorset	112,300	100	2,800	67,100	42,300	0.1	2.5	59.8	37.7
Durham	42,200	800	3,300	16,600	21,400	1.9	7.8	39.5	50.9
Essex	138,400	300	2,500	86,400	49,200	0.2	1.8	62.4	35.6
Gloucestershire	64,800	1,100	2,400	34,300	27,000	1.8	3.7	52.9	41.6
Greater Manchester	316,000	2,900	5,500	94,800	212,700	0.9	1.8	30.0	67.3
Hampshire	150,200	600	4,500	78,500	66,500	0.4	3.1	52.2	44.3
Hertfordshire	88,600	700	2,900	47,700	37,300	0.8	3.3	53.8	42.1
Humberside	91,600	200	1,500	55,600	34,300	0.2	1.7	60.6	37.5
Kent	126,300	2,300	3,700	67,200	53,100	1.8	2.9	53.3	42.0
Lancashire	324,600	400	1,900	236,000	86,300	0.1	0.6	72.7	26.6
Leicestershire	157,200	1,200	3,800	86,100	66,100	0.8	2.4	54.8	42.0
Lincolnshire	95,600	300	1,900	53,300	40,100	0.3	2.0	55.7	41.9
London, City of	29,200	100	500	14,600	14,000	0.4	1.8	49.8	48.0
Merseyside	98,200	300	900	35,600	61,500	0.3	0.9	36.2	62.6
Metropolitan Police	574,300	2,400	1,600	367,400	202,900	0.4	0.3	64.0	35.3
Norfolk	75,500	0	2,100	45,100	28,200	0.0	2.8	59.8	37.4
Northamptonshire	87,000	100	1,600	57,300	28,100	0.1	1.8	65.9	32.2
Northumbria	216,800	4,600	8,600	140,300	63,300	2.1	4.0	64.7	29.2
North Yorkshire	37,800	500	1,300	16,000	20,000	1.4	3.4	42.3	52.9
Nottinghamshire	108,500	200	1,200	67,700	39,400	0.2	1.1	62.4	36.3
South Yorkshire	148,000	1,000	3,300	89,900	53,800	0.7	2.2	60.7	36.3
Staffordshire	99,600	1,300	1,100	60,100	37,200	1.3	1.1	60.3	37.4
Suffolk	79,600	700	1,400	42,900	34,700	0.9	1.8	53.8	43.5
Surrey	53,000	700	2,700	30,500	19,100	1.4	5.0	57.5	36.0
Sussex	146,900	1,100	500	112,200	33,100	0.7	0.4	76.4	22.6
Thames Valley	233,700	1,000	1,600	164,800	66,400	0.4	0.7	70.5	28.4
Warwickshire	103,100	7,200	2,800	73,000	20,100	7.0	2.8	70.8	19.5
West Mercia	141,200	500	3,200	98,600	38,800	0.4	2.2	69.9	27.5
West Midlands	304,900	2,100	4,900	114,900	183,100	0.7	1.6	37.7	60.0
West Yorkshire	266,900	2,400	4,100	144,100	116,200	0.9	1.5	54.0	43.5
Wiltshire	92,800	1,400	3,000	54,400	33,900	1.5	3.3	58.6	36.6
Dyfed Powys	50,500	2,600	4,000	20,800	23,000	5.2	8.0	41.2	45.5
Gwent	53,600	600	2,200	25,100	25,800	1.1	4.1	46.7	48.1
North Wales	168,300	1,200	2,600	129,000	35,500	0.7	1.6	76.6	21.1
South Wales	256,500	6,200	5,500	156,000	88,800	2.4	2.2	60.8	34.6
England and Wales	6,142,600 ⁽⁴⁾	57,300	122,500	3,637,200	2,325,600	0.9	2.0	59.2	37.9

(1) Cautions data has also been included where appropriate (see Table 3 for more detail).

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

(3) Proceedings at magistrates' courts. 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.

(4) In addition, 7,122,600 penalty charge notices were issued in 2003 by local authorities for parking offences. See Note 13(k)(iii).

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

England and Wales

Offence group	Offence type	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽¹⁾	2002	2003
1	Causing death or bodily harm	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
2	Dangerous driving	6.2	6.2	6.4	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.2	5.4	6.3	6.8
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	91.2	89.7	92.5	95.7	100.2	93.1	89.4	85.8	84.8	90.5	93.7
4	Careless driving	66.4	64.7	61.9	57.4	55.8	52.1	46.8	41.3	36.9	33.6	31.7
5	Accident offences	21.7	19.3	18.7	17.9	18.0	17.3	16.4	15.8	15.9	16.3	17.1
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	39.6	37.8	33.5	32.2	30.3	30.0	29.5	25.4	24.6	25.8	24.2
7(pt)	Driving while disqualified	46.7	47.1	45.4	42.5	42.5	42.4	43.9	42.8	44.6	48.5	55.6
7(pt),9-12,14	Other licence, insurance and record keeping offences	710.0	733.1	742.3	713.7	703.8	693.9	668.9	670.6	655.3	706.6	816.2
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	250.4	257.3	259.9	243.7	234.6	233.3	227.4	217.2	203.1	211.4	221.9
16	Speed limit offences	100.2	105.1	119.0	130.0	132.8	153.5	153.6	141.4	135.6	124.6	140.1
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	55.5	48.8	48.6	46.5	42.4	40.8	38.2	37.7	34.6	32.6	33.9
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	30.5	20.8	16.2	15.4	15.7	16.8	16.6	14.2	14.0	13.2	14.0
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	26.8	27.0	25.6	24.5	23.3	22.9	21.2	17.9	14.2	13.6	12.4
23	Load offences	21.8	21.6	20.7	19.3	17.8	17.7	14.8	13.3	11.6	9.6	10.0
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.0
25(pt)	Non-compliance with notice to owner	21.0	17.7	6.6	7.7	11.8	9.9	10.2	3.6	3.0	2.8	3.0
25(pt)	Seat belt offences	7.1	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.6	5.5	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.7
25(pt)	Miscellaneous motoring offences	31.7	28.2	30.8	30.8	31.7	26.0	25.2	25.5	35.6	41.6	63.1
	Total (thousands)	1,529.3	1,533.4	1,537.3	1,492.4	1,475.3	1,464.5	1,415.2	1,364.6	1,325.8	1,382.7	1,549.6
	<i>As a percentage of total court proceedings (Table 1)</i>	63	63	64	65	66	66	66	66	66	65	67

(1) Revised. See Note 6.

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 ⁽¹⁾					Percentage under 21 ⁽¹⁾				
		1999	2000	2001 ⁽²⁾	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001 ⁽²⁾	2002	2003
1	Causing death or bodily harm	94	95	94	94	94	27	25	26	24	24
2	Dangerous driving	97	97	97	97	96	32	34	38	36	34
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	91	90	90	89	89	12	12	13	12	13
4	Careless driving	84	84	85	85	85	16	16	17	17	18
5	Accident offences	89	88	88	88	87	22	22	22	23	23
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	96	96	96	96	95	70	70	70	67	68
7,9-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	90	89	90	89	89	21	22	23	22	20
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	91	90	91	90	90	21	21	22	22	20
16	Speed limit offences	86	85	84	83	82	5	5	5	4	4
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	85	85	85	84	86	9	8	9	9	11
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	79	78	77	77	76	1	1	1	1	2
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	91	90	90	90	90	23	22	22	22	22
23	Load offences	98	97	97	97	97	2	2	2	2	2
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	98	97	97	97	97	80	79	79	81	77
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	83	81	82	83	84	6	6	5	5	4
	Total	89	89	89	88	88	19	19	20	20	18

(1) The numbers on which these percentages are based are published annually in the supplementary tables to this bulletin (see Note 22)

(2) Revised. See Note 6.

Table 13 Sentences and orders⁽¹⁾ 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										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Absolute or conditional discharge or recognizance	89.4	79.3	65.1	60.2	56.2	54.7	55.7	50.5	47.2	50.1	51.2
Community rehabilitation ⁽²⁾ or Supervision order	34.3	36.9	32.9	32.5	31.7	31.0	29.6	25.6	26.0	29.9	33.6
Fine	1,101.6	1,052.4	1,059.6	1,031.6	1,015.2	988.8	918.1	878.4	840.5	859.1	994.6
Community punishment order ⁽²⁾	18.9	18.2	17.0	15.2	15.2	15.0	16.2	15.2	15.9	16.9	17.5
Attendance centre order	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.7
Community punishment and rehabilitation order ⁽²⁾	5.2	7.1	8.3	9.7	10.4	10.6	10.2	9.1	7.7	8.2	8.5
Drug treatment and testing order	*	*	*	*	*	* (3)	* (3)	0.0	0.5	0.8	1.2
Secure training order	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.2	0.1	*	*	*
Referral order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.5	13.5
Detention and training order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.2	3.8	3.3	3.2
Youth custody / young offender institution	9.7	10.7	10.5	9.8	9.6	9.5	10.5	7.4	6.7	6.4	6.2
Imprisonment:											
Fully suspended sentence	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6
Unuspended sentence	15.7	21.0	22.5	22.4	23.6	23.3	24.6	23.9	24.5	25.0	26.4
Other ⁽⁴⁾	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.8	1.9	2.5	3.1	5.7	11.2	13.7	13.2
Total sentences or orders	1,281	1,231	1,221	1,186	1,166	1,138	1,071	1,020	986	1,026	1,171
Offence not separately dealt with ⁽⁵⁾	229.5	282.1	295.2	287.1	288.2	305.6	325.0	327.9	323.0	336.6	358.8
Sentence or order imposed	by the Crown Court ⁽⁶⁾										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽⁷⁾	2002	2003
Absolute or conditional discharge	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Community rehabilitation order ⁽²⁾	1.9	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0
Fine	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Community punishment order	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7
Community punishment and rehabilitation order ⁽²⁾	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5
Drug treatment and testing order	*	*	*	*	*	* (3)	* (3)	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.5
Secure training order	*	*	*	*	*	-	0.0	-	*	*	*
Detention and training order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Youth custody / young offender institution	2.6	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9
Imprisonment:											
Fully suspended sentence	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Unuspended sentence	5.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.3	6.4	6.0	5.6	5.2	6.1	6.0
Other ⁽⁴⁾	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total sentences or orders	14	14	14	13	13	13	12	11	10	11.7	11.9
Offence not separately dealt with ⁽⁵⁾	5.7	6.3	6.8	7.3	7.5	8.4	8.4	7.3	7.2	8.3	8.5

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

(2) New names for community sentences came into force in April 2001. They are community rehabilitation order (previously probation order), community punishment order (previously community service order) and community punishment and rehabilitation order (previously combination order)

(3) Drug treatment and testing orders given in pilot areas in 1998 and 1999 are included under 'Other' for these years

(4) Includes curfew orders, reparation orders and action plan orders and minor disposals

(5) 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.

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

(7) Revised. See Note 6.

Table 14 Average fines at magistrates' courts for certain motoring offences ⁽¹⁾ and average fines revalued to 1993 prices ⁽²⁾ (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	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
1993	112	260	253	112	127	177	238	
1994	123 (123)	289 (288)	306 (305)	121 (121)	113 (113)	201 (200)	261 (260)	
1995	127 (120)	300 (283)	299 (282)	121 (114)	107 (101)	212 (200)	275 (260)	
1996	127 (117)	299 (275)	295 (272)	121 (111)	101 (93)	212 (195)	277 (255)	
1997	128 (114)	295 (264)	281 (251)	122 (109)	119 (106)	210 (188)	287 (256)	
1998	130 (112)	325 (281)	263 (227)	118 (102)	135 (117)	201 (174)	299 (258)	
1999	131 (111)	318 (271)	256 (218)	119 (101)	132 (112)	201 (171)	286 (243)	
2000	132 (109)	303 (250)	240 (198)	122 (101)	130 (107)	195 (161)	306 (253)	
2001	122 (99)	292 (237)	203 (165)	142 (115)	132 (107)	146 (119)	270 (219)	
2002	123 (98)	316 (252)	207 (165)	146 (117)	128 (102)	152 (121)	274 (219)	
2003	124 (96)	294 (228)	209 (162)	147 (114)	127 (99)	157 (122)	285 (221)	

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

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

Table 15 Sentences⁽¹⁾ of immediate custody⁽²⁾ at all courts and as a percentage of all findings of guilt

England and Wales		Numbers and percentages										
Offence group	Offence type	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽³⁾	2002	2003
1	Causing death or bodily harm	240	250	250	290	270	270	210	250	300	300	300
2	Dangerous driving	1,900	2,300	2,500	2,300	2,500	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,600	3,000	3,100
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	4,500	5,800	6,200	6,400	7,200	6,900	6,900	6,600	6,600	6,400	6,300
5	Accident offences	300	500	400	500	500	600	600	600	600	600	600
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	10,800	11,800	11,500	11,100	10,900	10,900	10,500	8,700	8,300	8,500	7,900
7(pt)	Driving while disqualified ⁽⁴⁾	15,100	19,800	21,000	20,300	21,000	21,200	23,300	22,600	23,600	23,700	25,400
14	Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	100	100	200	100	100	100	100	90	80	300	100
25(pt)	Failing to give name and address etc. after accident	30	30	40	30	30	30	40	50	30	30	20
	Total	33,000	40,500	42,000	41,000	42,500	42,200	44,000	41,200	42,100	42,900	43,800⁽⁵⁾
Percentage of findings of guilt resulting in an immediate custodial sentence ⁽²⁾												
1	Causing death or bodily harm	70	73	73	78	79	80	79	81	83	84	90
2	Dangerous driving	31	37	38	40	42	40	44	45	48	48	46
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	5	6	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	7	7
5	Accident offences	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	27	31	34	34	36	36	35	34	34	33	33
7(pt)	Driving while disqualified ⁽⁴⁾	32	42	46	48	49	50	53	53	53	49	45
14	Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1
25(pt)	Failing to give name and address etc. when required	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0

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

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

(3) Revised. See Note 6.

(4) For 2001 and 2003 includes custodial sentences for 'driving after false declaration as to physical fitness etc' (5 in 2001 & 4 in 2003) and 'other driving licence related offences (excluding fraud & forgery) (1 in 2003 only).

(5) Excludes one case where a custodial sentence was imposed for an offence within offence group 20 for 'other obstruction, waiting & parking offences'.

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

England and Wales

Thousands of offences

Offence group	Offence type	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Disqualifications												
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	8	8	7	7	8	8	7	7	8 ⁽¹⁾	9	10
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	83	81	84	88	93	86	83	80	79 ⁽¹⁾	85	87
6-25	Other offences	60	65	64	61	60	64	66	66	78 ⁽¹⁾	90	93
	Total	150	155	155	156	161	158	156	153	165 ⁽¹⁾	184	191
	Persons disqualified under the penalty points system ⁽²⁾	32	33	32	31	31	33 ⁽³⁾	34	34	30 ⁽¹⁾	30	33
Endorsements without disqualifications												
1-5	Dangerous, drunken, careless driving and accident offences	89	86	81	74	72	67	61	55	50	47	44
16-19	Speed limit offences and neglect of traffic signs, directions and of pedestrian rights	610	702	781	852	974	1,052	1,066 ⁽⁴⁾	1,196 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	1,388 ⁽⁴⁾	1,653 ⁽⁴⁾	2,382
7,9,10,12	Licence and insurance offences	382	383	374	351	344	337	364	374	369	394	448
[6, 11, 13-15, 20-25]	Other offences	73	73	74	73	75	70	61	52	49	49	64
	Total	1,155	1,244	1,310	1,350	1,464	1,525	1,552 ⁽⁴⁾	1,677 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	1,856 ⁽⁴⁾	2,143 ⁽⁴⁾	2,939
	Of which:											
	As a result of a fixed penalty notice ⁽⁶⁾	490	583	651	717	841	903	915 ⁽⁴⁾	1,051 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	1,256 ⁽⁴⁾	1,532 ⁽⁴⁾	2,252

(1) Revised. See Note 6.

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

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

(4) Revised. See Note 9.

(5) Revised. See Note 9.

(6) Included also in the appropriate rows above.

Table 17 Driving licence disqualifications ⁽¹⁾: 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	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽²⁾	2002	2003
Disqualifications of over 1 year												
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	2,300	2,700	2,600	2,300	2,700	2,200	2,100	2,000	2,200	2,600	3,000
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	48,900	48,700	49,700	51,900	57,000	54,600	52,900	52,300	53,500	57,900	59,600
6-25	Other offences	<u>11,500</u>	<u>13,900</u>	<u>12,800</u>	<u>11,700</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>12,100</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>11,700</u>	<u>12,300</u>	<u>13,900</u>	<u>14,800</u>
	All offences	62,800	65,300	65,100	65,900	71,800	68,900	66,900	65,900	68,000	74,400	77,400
Percentage of all disqualifications that were over 1 year												
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	31	34	33	35	34	28	28	27	28	28	29
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	59	60	59	59	61	63	64	65	67	68	69
6-25	Other offences	<u>19</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>
	All offences	41	42	42	42	45	44	43	43	41	41	41

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

(2) Revised. See Note 6.

Table 18 Screening breath tests by outcome

England and Wales								Thousands and percentages			
Outcome	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total number of tests	599.6	678.5	702.7	781.1	800.3 ⁽¹⁾	815.5	764.5	714.8	623.9	570.2	534.3
Number positive or refused	89.4	93.3	94.4	100.5	103.5	102.3 ⁽²⁾	94.1 ⁽²⁾	94.6 ⁽²⁾	99.5 ⁽²⁾	103.5 ⁽²⁾	106.3 ⁽²⁾
% Positive or refused	15	14	13	13	13	13	12	13	16	18	20

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

Table 19 Screening breath tests by outcome and quarter

England and Wales								Thousands and percentages				
Outcome	2001 ⁽¹⁾				2002 ⁽¹⁾				2003 ⁽¹⁾			
	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	144.9	146.1	140	192.8	132.5	131	127.6	179.1	130.1	119.3	122.6	162.3
Number positive or refused	23.3	25.1	24.4	26.7	24.6	25.4	25.9	27.6	25.7	26.4	26.4	27.9
% Positive or refused	16	17	17	14	19	19	20	15	20	22	22	17

(1) See Note 16.

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

England and Wales 2003 ⁽¹⁾			Numbers and percentages
Month	Total tests	Positive / refused	% Positive / refused
January	47,000	8,800	19
February	41,800	8,200	20
March	41,300	8,700	21
April	38,800	8,500	22
May	40,100	8,900	22
June	40,400	8,900	22
July	39,400	8,800	22
August	44,200	8,800	20
September	39,000	8,700	22
October	41,100	9,400	23
November	44,500	9,200	21
December	76,800	9,300	12
Total	534,300	106,300	20

(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	2002 ⁽¹⁾					2003 ⁽¹⁾				
	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	15,100	1,021	3,000	205	20	24,500	1,643	3,300	221	13
Bedfordshire	6,200	1,086	900	156	14	6,600	1,162	1,100	196	17
Cambridgeshire	13,000	1,831	1,300	181	10	12,300	1,717	1,300	176	10
Cheshire	12,200	1,243	2,400	246	20	11,900	1,202	2,400	243	20
Cleveland	11,000	2,031	800	144	7	8,700	1,611	1,100	201	13
Cumbria	4,700	962	500	110	11	5,500	1,129	600	133	12
Derbyshire	37,900	3,965	1,700	174	4	32,600	3,384	1,700	174	5
Devon and Cornwall	12,600	799	2,900	186	23	10,900	686	3,000	186	27
Dorset	10,400	1,504	1,600	228	15	8,500	1,216	1,700	245	20
Durham	9,500	1,612	1,100	187	12	7,600	1,281	1,100	192	15
Essex	16,100	999	2,700	166	17	15,500	954	2,800	170	18
Gloucestershire	9,300	1,653	1,500	270	16	8,600	1,525	1,400	253	17
Greater Manchester	23,200	934	7,400	298	32	20,900	832	7,100	282	34
Hampshire	35,200	1,981	4,000	225	11	37,500	2,097	4,000	223	11
Hertfordshire	4,300	414	2,000	197	47	4,000	387	2,100	200	52
Humberside	8,700	1,003	1,200	136	14	6,500	752	1,500	177	24
Kent	34,200	2,161	3,000	189	9	24,600	1,545	3,000	188	12
Lancashire	10,600	746	1,500	103	14	8,000	561	2,900	203	36
Leicestershire	14,500	1,571	2,400	258	16	12,000	1,286	2,300	244	19
Lincolnshire	9,000	1,392	900	132	9	12,100	1,836	1,100	162	9
London, City of ⁽²⁾	1,400	..	300	..	20	1,200	..	200	..	19
Merseyside	7,000	511	2,300	169	33	7,700	567	2,300	169	30
Metropolitan Police	57,200	797	13,700	191	24	56,000	762	16,000	218	29
Norfolk	5,300	665	900	118	18	4,000	502	1,200	150	30
Northamptonshire	3,300	530	1,300	209	39	3,100	490	1,300	198	40
Northumbria	11,800	852	3,000	217	26	11,100	805	2,600	187	23
North Yorkshire	7,300	969	1,200	156	16	8,300	1,093	1,200	155	14
Nottinghamshire	5,800	571	2,100	209	37	7,100	698	2,500	240	34
South Yorkshire	14,400	1,138	2,000	159	14	12,100	956	1,800	141	15
Staffordshire	5,300	502	1,800	173	34	5,100	484	1,800	177	36
Suffolk	8,900	1,325	1,000	155	12	11,600	1,721	1,300	198	12
Surrey	7,500	708	1,100	106	24	8,900	836	900	89	11
Sussex	17,300	1,157	1,800	121	10	17,200	1,143	2,000	133	12
Thames Valley	25,300	1,209	7,700	367	30	16,000	764	6,300	300	39
Warwickshire	5,100	1,001	900	184	18	5,800	1,141	900	169	15
West Mercia	8,200	709	2,200	194	27	6,300	538	2,400	207	38
West Midlands	10,500	411	5,000	197	48	11,000	426	4,800	185	43
West Yorkshire	16,700	805	4,500	216	27	14,200	678	3,600	171	25
Wiltshire	5,900	953	1,100	177	19	5,900	951	1,200	186	20
Dyfed-Powys	7,300	1,504	1,000	212	14	6,000	1,211	1,100	220	18
Gwent	3,800	685	1,100	202	30	2,800	504	1,300	228	45
North Wales	19,600	2,953	1,500	225	8	17,300	2,594	1,400	204	8
South Wales	17,500	1,459	2,900	242	17	16,900	1,403	3,000	250	18
Total	570,200	1,095	103,500	200	18	534,300	1,018	106,300	203	20

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

Table 22 Penalty charge notices for on-street parking offences

Thousands of notices

Penalty Charge Notices	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
London local authorities⁽¹⁾					
Penalty charge notices issued	3,663.5	4,020.9	4,221.9	4,798.8	5,053.0
<i>of which</i>					
Paid within 14 days	1,412.3	1,418.6	1,835.6	2,017.6	2,220.9
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	387.7	388.1	444.0	517.8	550.4
Paid after charge certificate served	..	..	96.6	130.9	164.2
Sub-total paid	1,800.1	1,806.7	2,376.2	2,666.2	2,935.4
Cases going for adjudication	39.0	33.5	32.0	64.1	46.7
Number of certificates registered	537.5	539.5	827.8	990.1	788.2
No further action taken ⁽²⁾	672.6	539.4	611.9	1,014.7	965.6
Total ⁽³⁾	3,049.1	2,919.0	3,847.9	4,735.0	4,735.8
Number of vehicles wheelclamped	77.6	83.0	93.5	107.6	114.7
Number of vehicles removed	43.6	71.0	36.1	97.9	68.3
Other local authorities					
Penalty charge notices issued	292.1	634.4	1,081.1	1,614.3	2,069.6
<i>of which</i>					
Paid within 14 days	162.9	334.6	550.6	775.3	1,035.0
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	34.1	58.2	135.3	213.7	270.5
Paid after charge certificate served	9.6	26.8	33.5	49.9	56.0
Sub-total paid	206.6	419.6	719.4	1,038.8	1,361.5
Cases going for adjudication	1.4	1.8	2.9	5.1	6.6
Number of certificates registered	26.1	78.4	113.6	223.4	245.6
No further action taken ⁽²⁾	44.5	94.1	163.2	294.0	396.0
Total ⁽³⁾	278.5	593.8	999.1	1,561.4	2,009.7
Number of vehicles wheelclamped ⁽⁴⁾	0.4	2.1	2.6	4.0	1.6
Number of vehicles removed ⁽⁴⁾	4.8	11.2	14.3	22.2	18.4
Number of local authorities issuing PCNs	9	25	44	61	83
England and Wales⁽⁵⁾					
Penalty charge notices issued	3,955.6	4,655.3	5,303.0	6,413.1	7,122.6
<i>of which</i>					
Paid within 14 days	1,575.2	1,753.2	2,386.2	2,792.8	3,255.9
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	421.8	446.3	579.2	731.5	820.9
Paid after charge certificate served	9.6	26.8	130.1	180.7	220.2
Sub-total paid	2,006.6	2,226.2	3,095.6	3,705.0	4,296.9
Cases going for adjudication	40.4	35.2	34.9	69.2	53.3
Number of certificates registered	563.6	617.8	941.4	1,213.4	1,033.8
No further action taken ⁽²⁾	717.1	633.5	775.0	1,308.7	1,361.5
Total ⁽³⁾	3,327.7	3,512.9	4,847.0	6,296.3	6,745.5
Number of vehicles wheelclamped ⁽⁴⁾	78.0	85.1	96.1	111.5	116.3
Number of vehicles removed ⁽⁴⁾	48.4	82.2	50.4	120.1	86.7
Number of local authorities issuing PCNs ⁽⁶⁾	10	26	45	62	84

(1) Figures included for some London local authorities will be for both on-street and off-street parking offences

(2) Where the PCN is written off, for example, the motorist cannot be traced or the PCN is cancelled due to parking attendant error or successful representation.

(3) This figure excludes notices still being processed and for some local authorities will include those issued in the previous period but recorded as payment in 2003.

(4) Not all local authorities collect this data.

(5) The first Welsh local authority joined the scheme in 2003.

(6) All London local authorities within the scheme are counted as one for this table.

Table 23 Penalty charge notices for on-street parking offences

Percentages of offences

Penalty Charge Notices	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
London local authorities⁽¹⁾					
Paid within 14 days	46.3	48.6	47.7	42.6	46.9
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	12.7	13.3	11.5	10.9	11.6
Paid after charge certificate served	..	..	2.5	2.8	3.5
Sub-total paid	59.0	61.9	61.8	56.3	62.0
Cases going for adjudication	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.0
Number of certificates registered	17.6	18.5	21.5	20.9	16.6
No further action taken ⁽²⁾	22.1	18.5	15.9	21.4	20.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Other local authorities					
Paid within 14 days	58.5	56.3	55.1	49.7	51.5
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	12.2	9.8	13.5	13.7	13.5
Paid after charge certificate served	3.4	4.5	3.4	3.2	2.8
Sub-total paid	74.2	70.7	72.0	66.5	67.7
Cases going for adjudication	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Number of certificates registered	9.4	13.2	11.4	14.3	12.2
No further action taken ⁽²⁾	16.0	15.8	16.3	18.8	19.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100
England and Wales⁽³⁾					
Paid within 14 days	47.3	49.9	49.2	44.4	48.3
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	12.7	12.7	11.9	11.6	12.2
Paid after charge certificate served	0.3	0.8	2.7	2.9	3.3
Sub-total paid	60.3	63.4	63.9	58.8	63.7
Cases going for adjudication	1.2	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.8
Number of certificates registered	16.9	17.6	19.4	19.3	15.3
No further action taken ⁽²⁾	21.5	18.0	16.0	20.8	20.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100

(1) Figures included for some London local authorities will be for both on-street and off-street parking offences

(2) Where the PCN is written off, for example, the motorist cannot be traced or the PCN is cancelled due to parking attendant error or successful representation.

(3) The first Welsh local authority joined the scheme in 2003

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 2002 were published in Statistical Bulletins and in more detailed tables published separately ('Offences relating to Motor Vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary Tables') – see note 22.

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. 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* was 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 3.1 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.

6. In 2000 *Staffordshire* police were only able to supply a 9% sample of court proceedings 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 in 2000 for both Norfolk and Northamptonshire are estimated at approximately 10,000 summary motoring offences. In 2001 Northamptonshire continued with its shortfall of summary motoring offences which is estimated at approximately 19,000. Furthermore a single month's shortfall or part thereof was found for court proceedings summary motoring offences (10,000) at *Humberstone, Merseyside, Staffordshire* and *Surrey* police forces. The estimates for 2000 and 2001 have not been included in this bulletin. As a result of an error in data processing procedures there was also a shortfall in the recording of data proceedings at the Crown Court in 2001. In consequence national data has been revised. In 2002 *Northamptonshires'* continuing shortfall for summary motoring offences is estimated at approximately 18,000 proceedings. Part shortfalls (4,000) were also found for *Merseyside, Norfolk* and *Gwent*. Comparison of police prosecutions and court proceedings data for speeding and traffic light offences detected by camera has led to a revision of total prosecutions for these offences for 2002 (see Table D).

7. In 2003 there is an estimated shortfall of 12,800 court proceedings for summary motoring offences. In the main, these fell within Suffolk (2,500) and Northamptonshire (6,200) forces. These estimates have not been included in this bulletin.

8. 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).

9. Following publication of 2000 data Northamptonshire police force revised their 2000 figures for the number of fixed penalty notices issued for speeding offences from 70,300 to 34,800 (a decrease of 35,500). Since publication of 2002 data Essex police force have revised down their 1999 to 2002 figures for the fixed penalty notices issued for speeding and traffic light offences - for the purpose of supplying data to the Home Office, the force had inadvertently double counted offences detected by camera within the overall fixed penalty offence groups totals. In consequence, national data has been revised.

Counting basis

10. 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, 2003" (Cm 6361) and described in Appendix 2, paragraph 13 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.

11. 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.

12. 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

13. 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. Further regulations covering people aged 14 and over was introduced in 1993.

(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. Up to and including 2003 there are 83 local authorities outside London issuing penalty charge notices that cover on-street parking only. 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 contained a commitment to developing a funding mechanism that allowed all agencies involved in safety camera enforcement to be able to cover their costs. This hypothecation, or netting-off scheme was piloted in eight police force areas across Great Britain (seven of which were in England and Wales) between April 2000 and March 2002. Following the success of the pilot scheme, the Government allowed netting-off to be rolled out nationally from August 2001. By the end of 2003 39 police forces had joined the scheme.

(m) the Fixed Penalty (Amendment) Order 2003 introduced three further offences, which with effect from 1 June 2003, have been added to the road traffic fixed penalty offences scheme in England and Wales. The offences are as follows: s.143 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (RTA88) - no insurance; s.172 RTA88 - failure to supply

details necessary to identify an offending driver; and s.47 RTA88 - using vehicle without test certificate.

(n) effective as from 1 December 2003, the new offence of driving whilst using a hand held mobile phone was introduced as an addition (Regulation 110) to the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulation 1986. Offenders are subject to a £30 fixed penalty, which can be increased to a maximum fine of £1,000 if the matter goes to court.

Extension to the 'standard list' of offences

14. 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.

Breath Tests

Methods of collection and accuracy of results

15. Reporting of breath tests is not comprehensive and negative tests are less well reported than positive tests. Following the introduction of new breath testing equipment in Greater Manchester 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 2003 and the number of court proceedings for drink/driving related offences, it became clear that there was under-reporting in a number of forces. As a result Cleveland, Essex, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Staffordshire, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent and South Wales, court proceedings figures have been substituted for the positive breath test figures. Similar adjustments were also made to various forces data between 1998 - 2002.

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 2003'. These can be downloaded free from the Home Office web site (see note 24).

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 (unsuspended) imprisonment imposed at magistrates' courts by length of sentence
Table 5(a)	Sentences of young offender institution imposed at magistrates' courts by length of sentence
Table 5(b)	Sentences of detention and training orders 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 (unsuspended) imposed at the Crown Court by length of sentence
Table 10(a)	Sentences of young offender institution imposed at the Crown Court by length of sentence
Table 10(b)	Sentences of detention and training orders imposed at the Crown Court by length of sentence
Table 10(c)	Sentences of S91/92 of The Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 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 at all courts 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 (2002 data)
Table 21(b)	Fixed penalty notices by result and police force area - percentages (2002 data)
Table 22(a)	Penalty charge notices by result and local authority area - numbers
Table 22(b)	Penalty charge notices by result and local authority area - percentages

Enquiries

23. This bulletin has been prepared by RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform (RDS-OCJR), based on data obtained from the 43 police force areas and criminal courts within England and Wales by the RDS – Data Collection Group (RDS-DCG). Information on penalty charge notices was supplied by the Association of London Government and other local authorities. If you have any enquiries about figures in this bulletin please email to:

justice.statsapollo@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

24. The Bulletin including the accompanying Supplementary tables and other RDS publications can be downloaded from the Home Office web site at:

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

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS DIRECTORATE MISSION STATEMENT

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RDS is 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.