

Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics 05/06

England and Wales 2004

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MAIN POINTS

Motoring offences

■ The number of motoring offences dealt with by official police action or penalty charge notice in 2004 was 13.5 million, up three per cent on 2003 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 2004 was 3.4 million, down two per cent on 2003. In addition 7.7 million penalty charge notices were issued by local authority parking attendants in 2004, up seven per cent (paragraph 2).

■ The proportion disqualified for more than one year for offences of 'driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs' has steadily increased from 59 per cent in 1996 to 69 per cent in 2004 (paragraph 30).

■ Cameras provided evidence for 2 million offences dealt with in 2004. Overall these cameras provided evidence for 91 per cent of speeding offences dealt with (paragraph 31).

Breath tests

■ 578,000 screening breath tests were carried out during 2004, eight per cent more than in 2003 (paragraph 33).

■ The number of positive or refused tests in 2004 fell by three per cent from 106,000 in 2003 to 103,000 in 2004 (paragraph 34).

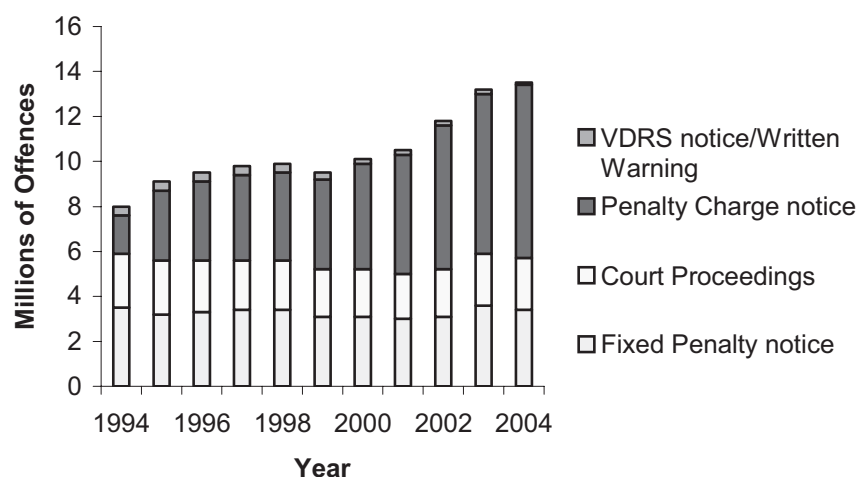
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Figure 1 Motoring offences dealt with by official action



INTRODUCTION

1. This bulletin contains statistics on motoring offences and breath tests dealt with by the police in England and Wales in 2004 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 2004, 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		
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	3.5	7.1	2.3	13.1	28.2
2004	0.1	0.1	3.4	7.7	2.3	13.5	29.0

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

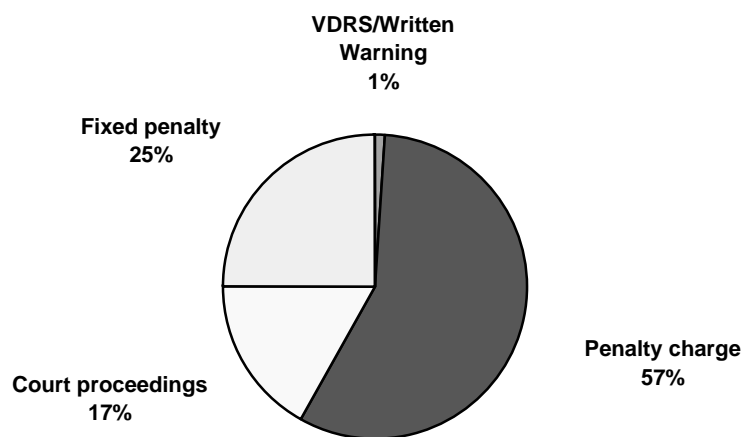
(2) Vehicle defect rectification scheme.

(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 2004 was 13.5 million, a rise of 437,000 (three per cent) on the final 2003 figure of 13.1 million. In 2004 7.7 million (57 per cent) were penalty charge notices issued by local authority parking attendants, up seven per cent on 2003 and reflecting the increasing number of local authorities using these powers (see note 13(k)(iii)). 3.4 million of the offences (25 per cent) were dealt with by fixed penalty notices issued by the police (including traffic wardens), down two per cent on the 2003 figure of 3.5 million. 2.3 million offences (17 per cent) were dealt with by court proceedings (see note 7), down one per cent on 2003. The remaining offences were dealt with either by written warnings (59,000) up three per cent on 2003, or vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS) notices complied with (95,900), up seven per cent on 2003.

3. The number of motoring offences dealt with during 2004, at 13.5 million, was the largest number to date. It represents 466 offences per thousand vehicles licensed in 2004, compared with 355 per thousand in 1994. The 2004 rate of 466 is 63 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, 2004



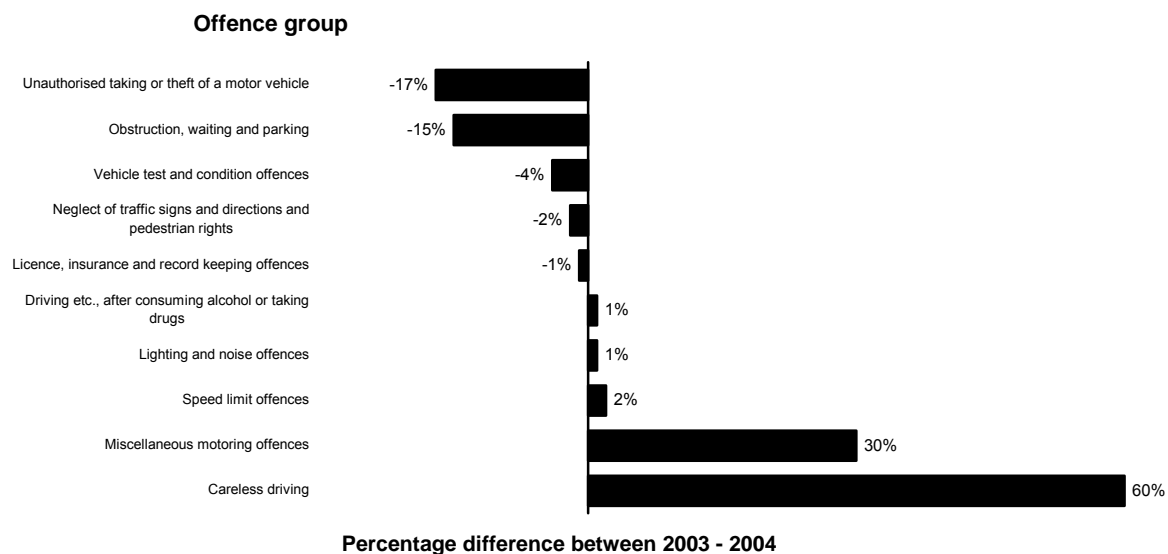
4. For motoring offences dealt with by police action (excluding penalty charge notices) Table 10 shows figures by police force for 2004. The proportion of offences dealt with by court proceedings (39 per cent for England and Wales) varies between forces, from Sussex who used court proceedings for 14 per cent of offences dealt with to Greater Manchester who used court proceedings for 65 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 charge notices.

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

5. In 2004 the largest group of offences dealt with, were for **obstruction, waiting and parking offences** 8.6 million in all. Of these, 900,700 were dealt with by official police action, forming the third largest proportion of motoring offences (15 per cent in 2004) dealt with by the police (including traffic wardens). The other 7.7 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 2004 was for **speed limit offences** comprising 2.1 million offences, or 36 per cent of all the offences they dealt with.

Figure 3 Offences dealt with by the police, change between 2003 and 2004



7. Between 2003 and 2004, the number of offences dealt with by the police increased in only five of the 15 offence groups in Table 2, and decreased in nine. Figure 3 shows the changes in the largest groups for 2003 and 2004. The most marked change between 2003 and 2004 occurred for ***careless driving offences*** which were up 60 per cent. This reflects the large number of police force areas taking action against drivers who used a hand-held mobile phone while driving. This new offence, introduced from 1 December 2003, shows a national total of 75,400 offences in 2004. In contrast the largest percentage falls of 17 and 15 per cent were for the offences of ***unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle*** and ***obstruction, waiting and parking*** respectively.

8. Table 2 contains figures from 1951 to examine longer term trends. With the exception of ***lighting and noise offences*** the numbers in 2004 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 2004 although there was a slight rise between 2003 (41,900) and 2004 (42,300). There have been some reductions in recent decades. For example, the number of offences of ***unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle*** rose from 12,300 in 1951 to 95,100 in 1991 and then gradually fell to 40,400 in 2004, despite a slight upturn in

2001 and 2002. The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) which counts crime against individual victims rather than offences committed by perpetrators against one or more victims may have had an impact but this is not quantifiable.

9. The **load offences** group, which was highest in 1991 at 44,100 has shown a long term reduction to 12,800 in 2004. While the reversal of the trend in long term reductions since 2001 continues for **driving etc after consuming alcohol or drugs**.

10. **Offences peculiar to motor cycles** increased by 13 per cent to 4,700 from 4,200 in 2003 and is at its highest level since 1995 (4,800).

11. The number of **miscellaneous motoring offences** dealt with was larger in 2004 at 347,000, a rise of 30 per cent on 2003, than in any other year shown in Table 2. There had been small reductions each year since 1997 (280,000) 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 267,000. 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 17 per cent of offences were dealt with by court proceedings during 2004 (a one percentage point decrease on 2003), whilst 82 per cent were dealt with by fixed penalty notices or penalty charge notices (a one percentage point increase on 2003). There is wide variation between offence types. Virtually all **obstruction, 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 where **vehicles or parts of vehicles found to be in dangerous or defective condition**. 69 per cent of these offences were dealt with in 2004 in this way. Among the offences for which fixed penalty notices are available, 91 per cent of **speed limit offences** were so dealt with in 2004 (down from 92 per cent in 2003). Fixed penalty notices dealt with 82 per cent of offences of **neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights** (down from 83 per cent in 2003). 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 57,300 in 2003 although there has been a slight upturn to 58,900 in 2004. Table B shows that **lighting and noise offences** and **offences peculiar to motor cycles**, were more likely than other offences to be dealt with by written warning. In contrast, Table 3 shows the numbers of written warnings issued and 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** and **speed limit offences** (each at 8,100 or 14 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 had declined with 122,500 being issued in 2003 before rising to 125,600 in 2004. 76 per cent (95,900) of VDRS notices were complied with in 2004, a rise of three percentage points from 2003. 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 2003 & 2004										Percentages	
Offence group	Court Proceedings ⁽²⁾		Written Warnings		VDRS Notice		Fixed penalty / Penalty charge notices issued ⁽³⁾		Total (thousands = 100%)		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	
Causing death or bodily harm	100	99	0 ⁽⁴⁾	1 ⁽⁴⁾	*	*	*	*	0.5	0.5	
Dangerous driving	100	99	0	1	*	*	*	*	11.4	10.3	
Driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	100	100	0	0	*	*	*	*	105.7	107.2	
Careless driving	49	30	9	5	*	*	43	66	86.4 ⁽⁵⁾	138.3	
Accident offences	95	95	5	5	*	*	*	*	31.1	29.3	
Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	88	86	12 ⁽⁴⁾	14 ⁽⁴⁾	*	*	*	*	48.7	40.4	
Licence, insurance & record keeping offences	94	94	1	1	*	*	5	5	1,398.6 ⁽⁵⁾	1,387.2	
Vehicle test offences	98	97	2	2	*	*	0	0	381.6	353.9	
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	26	23	1	0	67	69	7	8	134.2	139.3	
Speed limit offences	7	8	0	0	*	*	92	91	2,066.3 ⁽⁵⁾	2,104.8	
Neglect of traffic signs & directions & pedestrian rights	16	17	1	1	*	*	83	82	272.9 ⁽⁵⁾	267.3	
Obstruction, waiting & parking offences	0	0	0	0	*	*	100	100	8,187.6 ⁽⁵⁾	8,553.9	
Lighting & noise offences	43	38	10	8	*	*	48	55	41.9	42.3	
Load Offences	80	73	3	3	*	*	17	24	13.8	12.8	
Offences peculiar to motor cycles	60	56	6	6	*	*	33	38	4.2	4.7	
Miscellaneous	41	39	2	2	*	*	57	60	267.0 ⁽⁵⁾	346.7	
Total	18	17	0	0	1	1	81	82	13,051.9⁽⁵⁾	13,539.0	

(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 have been included.

(5) Revised. See Note 9.

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) fell from 3.6 million in 1994 to 2.9 million in 2001 before rising to 3.5 million in 2003 and then decreasing by just under one per cent to 3.4 million in 2004. Between 2003 and 2004, increases were observed for six out of eight of the offence groups shown in Table 5, the exceptions being: **obstruction, waiting and parking offences** (down 15 per cent) and **neglect of traffic signs, directions and pedestrian rights** (down three per cent).

16. **Obstruction, waiting and parking offences** were dealt with both by fixed penalty notices and penalty charge notices. There were 883,000 fixed penalty notices issued by the police in 2004, 161,000 or 15 per cent fewer than in 2003. The fall can be attributed mainly to more local authorities issuing penalty charge notices. 7.7 million parking offences in 2004 were dealt with by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities (an increase of seven per cent on 2003). 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 2004, all but superseded by the use of penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. Although there was a substantial increase in London of the use of fixed penalty notices for the offences from 143,000 in 2002 to 210,000 in 2003 (up 47 per cent) the number fell to 162,500 (down 23 per cent) in 2004. The detailed figures, for 1999 to 2004, 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					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Fixed penalty notices							
Metropolitan & City of London Police	206	193	197	142	143	210	162
Other police forces	1,912	1,615	1,398	1,183	1,022	834 ⁽²⁾	720
Total	2,118	1,808	1,595	1,325	1,165	1,044 ⁽²⁾	883
Penalty charge notices							
London	3,733	3,664	4,021	4,222	4,799	5,053	5,392
Other local authorities ⁽¹⁾	138	292	634	1,081	1,614	2,070	2,261
Total	3,872	3,956	4,655	5,303	6,413	7,123	7,653
Total fixed penalties & penalty charge notices	5,990	5,764	6,251	6,628	7,578	8,167 ⁽²⁾	8,536

(1) From 1997 to 2002 England only.

(2) Revised. See Note 9.

18. A final analysis of results of fixed penalty notices issued in 2004 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 88 per cent of the fixed penalty notices issued by the police in 2004 were paid and a fine was automatically registered at court for a further nine per cent. These rates show a small but steady increase in the number of fixed penalties paid since 1994 when the figure was 73 per cent. Fixed penalties are more likely to be paid if the offence is endorsable. In 2004 it is estimated that 98 per cent of fixed penalty notices issued for endorsable offences were paid without further enforcement, compared with 74 per cent (non-endorsable, driver present) and 71 per cent (non-endorsable, driver absent).

19. Of the total number of penalty charge notices dealt with in 2004, 50 per cent were paid within 14 days and a further 15 per cent were paid after 14 days but before enforcement. This compares with 48 per cent and 12 per cent respectively in 2003. In London in 2004, 48 per cent were paid within 14 days

and a further 16 per cent were paid after 14 days but before enforcement. This compares with 47 per cent and 12 per cent in 2003. The total number of penalty charge certificates registered in 2004 increased by one percent from 1,033,800 in 2003 to 1,048,300 in 2004.

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

20. The number of proceedings at magistrates' courts for offences relating to motor vehicles in 2004 was, at 2.3 million, about the same as in 2003. Proceedings were most often taken for ***licence, insurance and record keeping offences***, amounting to 1.3 million such offences in 2004, compared to 1.6 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 second year, a rise in the number of prosecutions, from 165,500 in 2003 to 172,300 in 2004, up four 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) also showed a rise of four per cent from 42,800 in 2003 to 44,600 in 2004 (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 2.1 of 'Criminal statistics, England and Wales 2004',⁽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. 68 per cent of all court proceedings for motoring offences resulted in findings of guilt in 2004, up one percentage point on 2003 and the highest proportion since 1990 (72 per cent). In total there were 1,550,000 findings of guilt in 2004, the same as in 2003.

24. Table 12 shows that in 2004 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** (97 per cent), **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** (96 per cent), **load offences** (97 per cent) and **offences peculiar to motor cycles** (98 per cent). The highest percentages of females were recorded for **obstruction, waiting and parking offences** (21 per cent), **speed limit offences** (18 per cent) and **miscellaneous motoring offences** (17 per cent). Disproportionate numbers of offenders were aged under 21 for offences of **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** (66 per cent) and for **offences peculiar to motor cycles** (72 per cent) which includes driving or riding on a motor cycle without wearing protective headgear and unlawful pillion riding.

25. In 2004, around 86 per cent of sentences or orders imposed at magistrates' courts were fines (Table 13). By contrast, custodial sentences were the most frequent sentence or order imposed at the Crown Court (64 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 (31,200) than the Crown Court (7,400). A substantial proportion of proceedings (23 per cent in 2004) result in the offence being 'not separately dealt with', because a sentence or order has been imposed for another offence.

26. The average fine imposed at magistrates' courts during 2004 was £129, an increase of £5 on 2003 (Table 14). However when inflation is taken into account, at 1994 prices, there was no real change. The average fines, in 2004, varied from £119 for **speed limit offences** to £376 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 the same as in 2003. 45 per cent of convictions for **dangerous driving** attracted sentences of immediate custody, down one percentage point on 2003. Similarly, custodial sentences given on conviction for **driving while disqualified** also fell, from 45 per cent in 2003 to 41 per cent in 2004.

DISQUALIFICATIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS (Tables 16 and 17)

28. During 2004, there were 190,500 disqualifications for specific motoring offences in England and Wales down 500 on 2003. A further 30,900 persons were disqualified under the penalty points or 'totting up' system, a decrease of 2,300 on the figure of 33,200 recorded in 2003. In 2004 90,300 persons were disqualified for **driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs** a rise of 3,300 from 2003. 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 1994, although this is mainly due to an increase in endorsements imposed following a fixed penalty notice.

30. Forty-two per cent of disqualifications in 2004 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 2004 cameras of all types provided evidence for 2.0 million motoring offences, an increase of six per cent on 2003, 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, compared with 35 covering 39 police force areas throughout 2004. In 2004, 94 per cent of offences were **speeding offences**, with the remainder being **traffic light offences**. Overall, camera devices were used to provide evidence in 2004 for 88 per cent of cases where the police took official action for **speeding offences** and for 47 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 2004 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						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Speeding offences							
Fixed penalty ⁽²⁾	338,800	423,000	599,200 ⁽³⁾	877,500	1,135,400	1,670,000 ⁽⁵⁾	1,786,600
Prosecutions	65,100	75,800	109,200	137,100	100,100 ⁽⁴⁾	127,400	127,100
Total	403,800	498,600	699,400 ⁽³⁾	1,014,600	1,235,500 ⁽⁴⁾	1,797,400 ⁽⁵⁾	1,913,700
Traffic light offences							
Fixed penalty ⁽²⁾	31,800	37,100	52,200	45,500	70,900	115,000	113,200
Prosecutions	11,800	14,900	15,900	11,100	13,200 ⁽⁴⁾	10,600	11,600
Total	43,500	52,000	68,100	56,600	84,100 ⁽⁴⁾	125,600	124,700
All offences							
Fixed penalty ⁽²⁾	370,500	460,100	642,400 ⁽³⁾	923,000	1,206,300	1,784,500 ⁽⁵⁾	1,899,800
Prosecutions	76,800	90,500	125,700	148,200	113,400 ⁽⁴⁾	138,000	138,700
Total	447,400	550,600	768,100 ⁽³⁾	1,071,200	1,319,700 ⁽⁴⁾	1,922,500 ⁽⁵⁾	2,038,500

(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.

(5) Revised. See Note 9.

BREATH TESTS

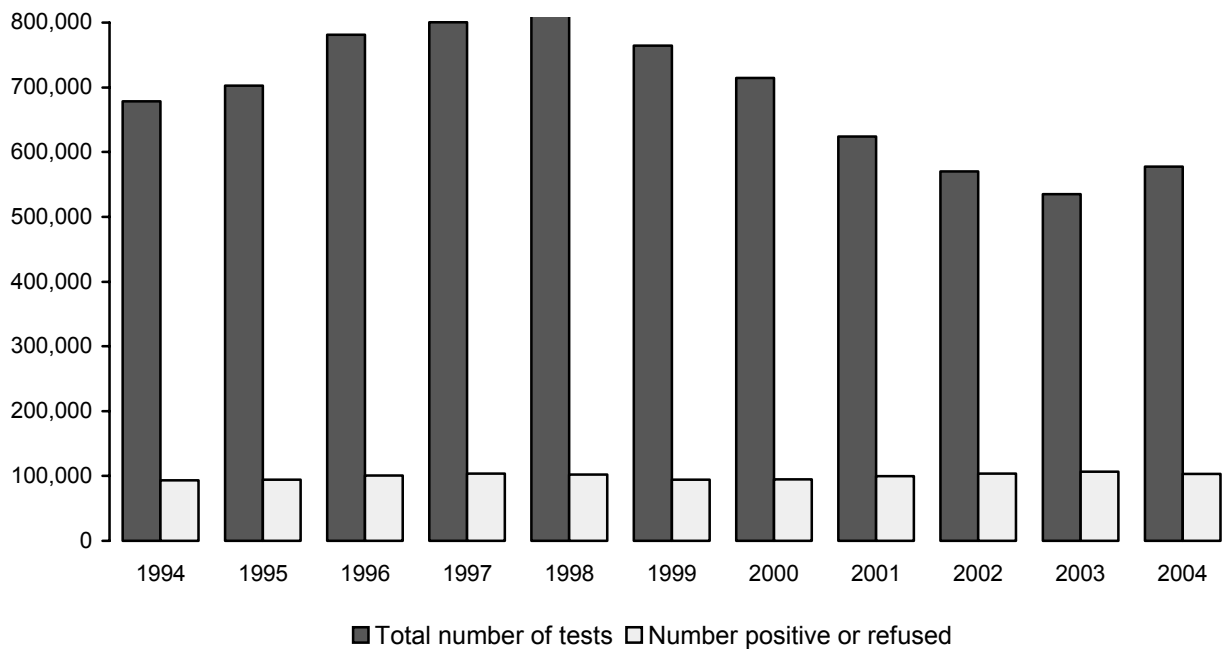
SCREENING BREATH TESTS (Table E, Table 18 and Figure 4)

Table E Number of screening breath tests by outcome

England and Wales	Thousands and percentage changes						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total number of tests	815.5	764.5	714.8	623.9	570.2	534.3	577.6
<i>Percentage (%) change on previous year</i>	+ 1.9	- 6.3	- 6.5	-12.7	-8.6	-6.3	+8.1
Of which positive/refused	102.3	94.1	94.6	99.5	103.5	106.3	103.0
<i>Percentage (%) change on previous year</i>	- 1.1	- 8.1	+ 0.5	+ 5.2	+4.0	+2.7	-3.1

33. During 2004, 578,000 screening breath tests were carried out by police officers. This is an increase of eight per cent on the 534,000 screening tests recorded during 2003.

Figure 4 Screening breath tests by outcome



34. The number of positive or refused tests was 103,000 in 2004, a fall of three per cent from 2003 (106,000). The proportion of tests positive or refused in 2004 was, at 18 per cent, two percentage points lower than in 2003 but higher than in 1994 (14 per cent). 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 3,230 and then again increased by three per cent in 2002 to 3,340. In 2003 there was a decrease of five per cent to 3,170 and provisional estimates for 2004 suggest a further decrease of seven per cent to 2,940. The reduction over the last couple of years has been in the serious casualties only. The fatalities have continued to rise⁽³⁾.

SEASONAL VARIATION (Tables 19 and 20)

36. In 2004, 15 per cent of all screening tests were conducted during December, which coincides with the regular Christmas campaign against drinking and driving. While the number of screening tests carried out during December was nearly twice the average number carried out in other months, the number of positive or refused tests at 8,600 was the average mean for the twelve months. The highest levels were recorded within the months of October and November at 9,200 and 9,000 respectively. The proportion of screening tests which, were positive or refused during December was 10 per cent, which is around half the proportion of tests positive or refused in the other months.

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

37. Police force areas vary widely in the number of tests carried out per 100,000 population, from 255 in West Midlands to 3,600 in North Wales. Figure 5 shows details for 2004. Forces with the highest number of tests per 100,000 population were North Wales, Derbyshire, Hampshire, Cheshire and Kent. The proportion of tests, which are positive or refused, also varies by force, from six

per cent in North Wales to 77 per cent in Gwent (see Note 16). Figure 6 shows police force areas by the number of positive or refused tests per 100,000 population in 2004. Forces with the highest rates of positive tests per 100,000 population were Greater Manchester, South Wales, Cheshire and Nottinghamshire.

- (1) See Home Office Statistical Bulletin 19/05 'Criminal statistics, England and Wales 2004' (The Stationery Office November 2005)
- (2) See 'The Criminal Histories of Serious Traffic Offenders' by Gerry Rose (Home Office Research Study 206)
- (3) See DfT 'Road Casualties Great Britain: 2004 - Annual Report' (The Stationery Office September 2005)

Figure 5 Total tests per 100,000 population by police force area 2004

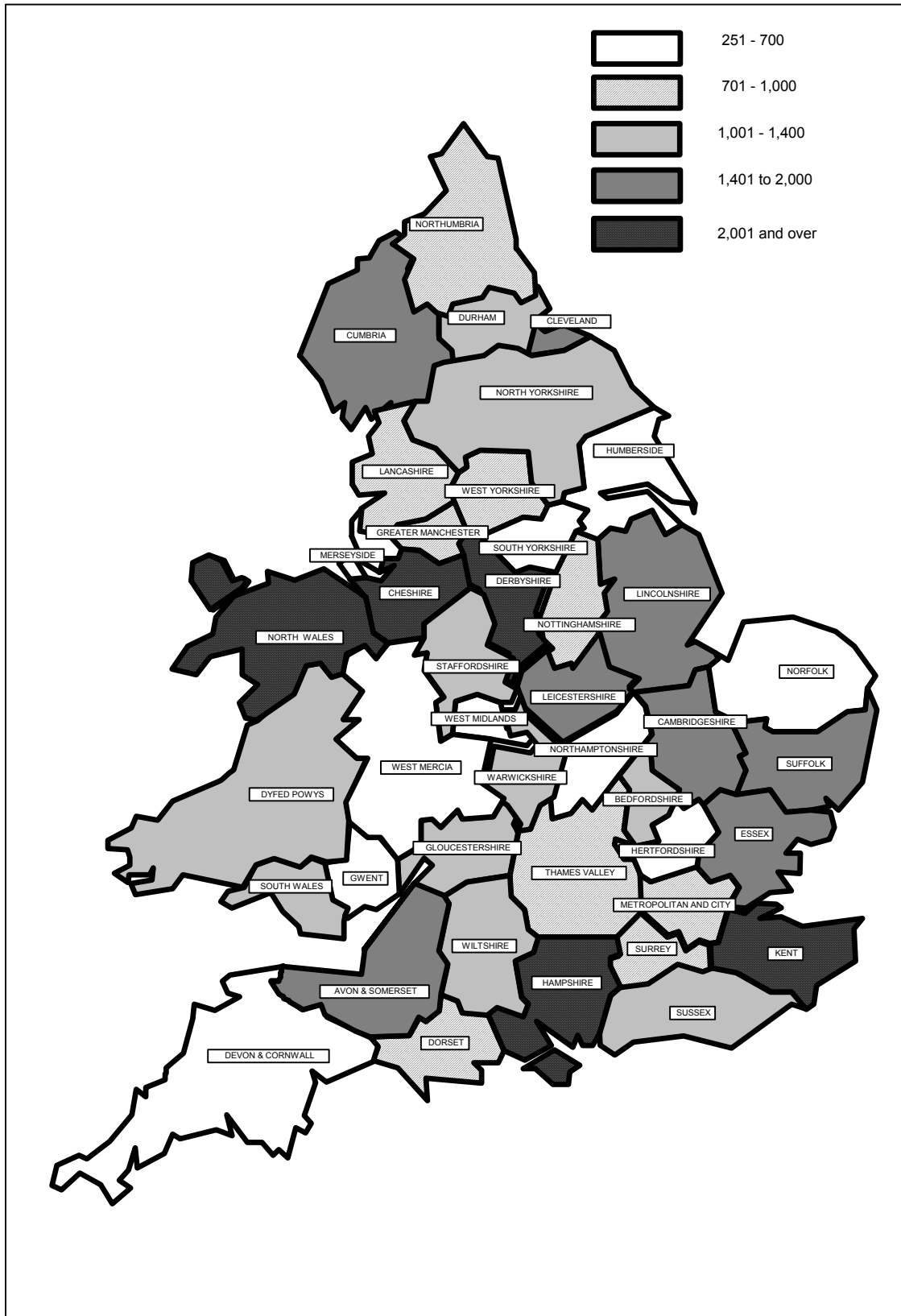


Figure 6 Positive/refused tests per 100,000 population by police force 2004

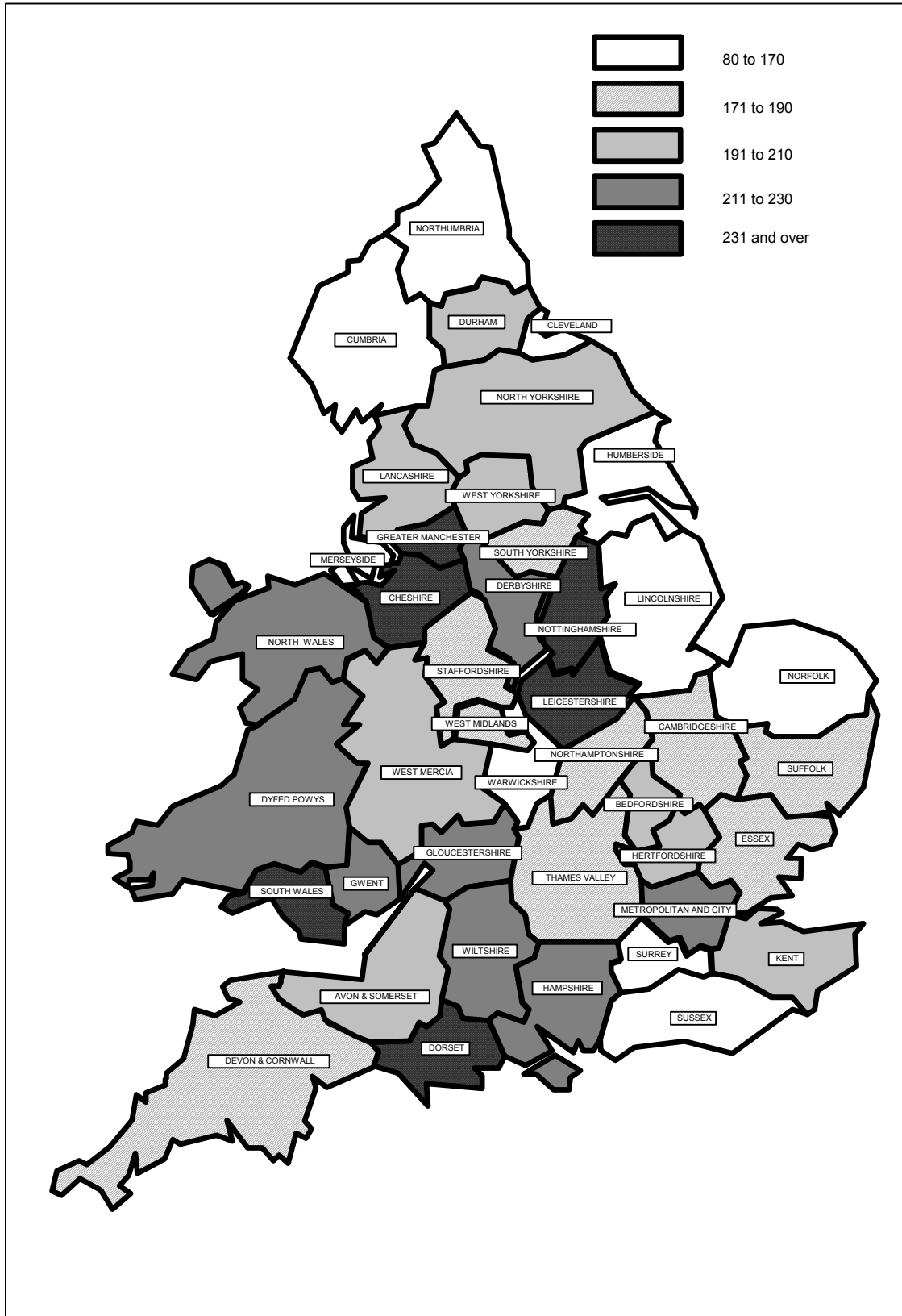


Table 1 Summary of action taken for offences relating to motor vehicles: written warnings, vehicle defect rectification scheme, fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices and court proceedings

England and Wales	Thousands of offences												
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Type of action:	151	274	238	326	231	201	161	127	109	87	59	57	59
Written warnings issued													
Vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS) notices complied with ⁽¹⁾	*	*	*	*	196	210	192	168	127	102	91	90	96
Fixed penalty not paid, no further action taken ⁽¹⁾	*	1,544	498	269	240	235	208	148	116	98	95 ⁽³⁾
Fixed penalty paid	*	..	..	2,593	4,014	2,649	2,691	2,427 ⁽²⁾	2,391 ⁽²⁾	2,366 ⁽²⁾	2,416	3,051	3,021 ⁽³⁾
Fine registration certificate	*	*	*	*	1,134	498	472	407	371	369	322	346	307 ⁽³⁾
Total dealt with by fixed penalty notice/fine registration	*	102	102	4,137	5,647	3,416	3,403	3,069 ⁽²⁾	2,969 ⁽²⁾	2,882 ⁽²⁾	2,853	3,495	3,423 ⁽³⁾
Penalty charge notices issued ⁽⁴⁾	*	*	*	*	*	3,769	3,872	3,956	4,655	5,303	6,413	7,123	7,653
Magistrates' court proceedings: ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾													
Proceedings discontinued, charges withdrawn or dismissed, etc	18	35	113	331	741	756	735	710	695	695	739	770	742
Findings of guilt after summary trial	366	922	1,553	2,086	1,527	1,460	1,454	1,407	1,356	1,317	1,372	1,538	1,538
Crown Court trial proceedings:													
Acquittals or not tried	-	1	3	4	5	4	3	3	3	3 ⁽⁷⁾	3	4	3
Findings of guilt	-	2	9	16	19	16	10	8	8	9 ⁽⁷⁾	11	11	11
Total dealt with by court proceedings	385	959	1,679	2,437	2,294	2,236	2,203	2,128	2,063	2,024 ⁽⁷⁾	2,124	2,324	2,294
Total dealt with by cautions, VDRS, fixed penalties, penalty charge notices or court proceedings	536	1,335	3,907	6,900	8,368	9,832	9,831	9,448 ⁽²⁾	9,923 ⁽²⁾	10,398 ⁽²⁾	11,541	13,088	13,525
Vehicles currently licensed (millions) ⁽⁸⁾	4.2 ⁽⁹⁾	9.0 ⁽⁹⁾	14.0 ⁽⁹⁾	15.3	22.7	24.4	25.5	26.2	26.2	27.0	27.7	28.2	29.0

(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 2004; 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	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1	Causing death or bodily harm	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	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	10.1	9.5	9.2	9.6	10.7	11.4	10.3
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	3.4	7.5	46.0	82.4	119.1	112.5	104.4	99.7	96.3	96.1	102.1	105.7	107.2
4	Careless driving	29.1	84.6	139.4	180.5	128.8	102.8	99.8	97.7	94.8	91.7	83.9	86.4 ⁽⁶⁾	138.3
5	Accident offences	8.6	19.9	30.9	57.5	53.9	32.5	31.6	29.9	29.0	30.4	30.1	31.1	29.3
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	12.3	32.4	52.6	75.9	95.1	58.4	57.0	56.7	50.7	51.0	52.1	48.7	40.4
7,9-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	110.9	330.4	650.7	1,057.6	1,267.0	1,277.9	1,255.4	1,227.5	1,201.2	1,177.4	1,247.7	1,398.6 ⁽⁶⁾	1,387.2
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	36.5	57.6	315.4	408.0	624.7	683.9	649.3	603.7	538.8	496.2	502.7	515.8	493.2
16	Speed limit offences	83.3	147.4	272.1	343.6	637.0	891.2	975.1	995.3 ⁽⁴⁾	1,121.1 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	1,318.8 ⁽⁴⁾	1,557.9 ⁽⁴⁾	2,066.3 ⁽⁶⁾	2,104.8
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	60.9	170.4	132.5	241.1	320.7	291.6	279.8	249.6 ⁽⁴⁾	234.9 ⁽⁴⁾	220.7 ⁽⁴⁾	220.1 ⁽⁴⁾	272.9 ⁽⁶⁾	267.3
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁷⁾	89.0	300.8	1,975.7	4,211.7	4,760.5	2,226.8	2,146.8	1,836.0	1,619.1	1,348.0	1,185.9	1,065.0 ⁽⁶⁾	900.7
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	66.9	115.6	229.8	227.7	88.1	76.1	77.6	68.9	55.6	45.6	43.7	41.9	42.3
23	Load offences	5.5	11.4	17.7	35.9	44.1	25.2	25.5	21.1	18.6	15.8	13.1	13.8	12.8
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	0.9	3.4	1.7	19.6	7.3	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.7
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽⁸⁾	23.7	41.8	31.5	131.0	237.8	279.9	278.1	258.1	223.1	227.7	220.4	267.0 ⁽⁶⁾	346.7
	Total	536.2	1,334.5	3,907.3	7,079.4	8,396.6	6,074.0	5,995.0	5,558.1 ⁽⁴⁾	5,296.9 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	5,133.8 ⁽⁴⁾	5,274.6 ⁽⁴⁾	5,929.3 ⁽⁶⁾	5,885.7

(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) Includes the following number of seat belt offences in 2004: 5,400 court proceedings, 201,900 fixed penalties and 3,700 written warnings.

(6) Revised. See Note 9.

(6) Revised. See Note 9.

(6) Revised. See Note 9.

Table 3 Written warnings by offence group

England and Wales		Thousands of offences												
Offence group	Offence type	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004		
1-4	Dangerous, careless or drunken driving etc. ⁽¹⁾	22	20	21	23	18	15	11	10	8	8	6		
5	Accident offences	5	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	1		
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle ⁽¹⁾	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	6		
7,9-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	49	43	41	36	31	26	23	19	14	13	13		
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	45	41	34	34	27	20	16	14	9	9	8		
16	Speed limit offences	24	31	27	35	28	22	24	17	7	6	8		
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	10	16	13	16	11	8	7	4	3	3	3		
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	4	3	4	4	4	3	2	2	2	1	3		
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	14	13	14	17	15	11	7	5	4	4	3		
23	Load offences	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0		
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0		
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	14	16	18	22	15	12	8	6	4	5	6		
	Total	199	198	188	201	161	127	109	87	59	57	59		
	Number of persons ⁽²⁾ (thousands)	157	155	143	157	135	106	92	75	52	50	48		

(1) Cautions data has been included.

(2) See note 10.

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

Year	England and Wales		Thousands and percentages	
	VDRS notices issued ⁽¹⁾	Notices complied with ⁽²⁾		
		No	No	%
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	
2004	126	96	76	

(1) A notice may relate to several defects.

(2) Vehicle repaired or scrapped within specified period.

Table 5 Fixed penalty notices issued by type of offence

England and Wales		Thousands of notices										
Offence group	Offence type	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
7,9,10	Licence, insurance ⁽¹⁾ and record keeping offences	43	43	48	47	50	68	49	50	50	68 ⁽⁴⁾	70
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	12	13	15	17	17	14	10	9	8	10	13
16	Speed limit offences	472	530	595	713	781	805 ⁽²⁾	942 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	1,151 ⁽²⁾	1,407 ⁽²⁾	1,895 ⁽⁴⁾	1,924
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	201	208	216	224	219	195 ⁽²⁾	183 ⁽²⁾	175 ⁽²⁾	177 ⁽²⁾	227	220
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁵⁾	2,698	2,271	2,282	2,199	2,118	1,808	1,595	1,325	1,165	1,044 ⁽⁴⁾	883
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	18	17	21	26	30	28	23	20	21	20	23
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽⁶⁾	117	131	160	184	200	185	159	149	134	152	207
4,23,24	Other offences	12	12	14	18	24	31	36	38	36	40	96
Total		3,574	3,225	3,352	3,428	3,440	3,134⁽²⁾	2,998⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	2,918⁽²⁾	2,997⁽²⁾	3,457⁽⁴⁾	3,435

(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) Revised. See Note 9.

(5) In addition, 7.7m offences were dealt with in 2004 by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. See note 13(k)(iii).

(6) The majority of these offences are seat-belt offences, 201,900 in 2004.

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

England and Wales	Percentage of notices issued										
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 ⁽¹⁾
Result											
Penalty paid	73	74	76	77	78	79	80	82	84	87	88
No further action	9	9	8	8	7	8	7	5	4	3	3
Fine registered	17	16	15	14	14	13	12	13	11	10	9
Referred for court proceedings	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4
Total notices dealt with ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	3,574	3,225	3,352	3,428	3,440	3,089 ⁽⁴⁾	2,984 ⁽⁴⁾	2,897 ⁽⁴⁾	2,866	3,506	3,423
(Thousands, = 100 %)											

(1) The analysis of results of fixed penalty notices is not yet complete for 2004. The percentages shown are estimates based on the total notice issued.

(2) Between 1994 and 1998 total notices issued given as data by result was not sufficiently robust to show national figure.

(3) In addition, of the 7.7m penalty charge notices issued by local authorities for parking offences in 2004, 7.3m 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

Year	England and Wales											Percentages	
	Endorsable ⁽¹⁾			Non-endorisable						All notices		Metro- politan Police	All forces
	Metro- politan Police	Other forces	All forces	Driver present			Driver absent ⁽²⁾			Metro- politan Police	Other forces		
				Metro- politan Police	Other forces	All forces	Metro- politan Police	Other forces	All forces				
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	98.5	99.1	99.1	73.6	71.0	71.3	60.5	70.0	68.2	74.2	88.5	87.0	
2004 ⁽³⁾	98.8	98.2	98.2	73.9	73.9	73.9	63.8	72.2	70.6	79.1	89.0	87.9	

(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 2004. 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	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2003			2004				
							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	9.1	9.5	10.7	11.3	10.3	2.8	2.8	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.3
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	96.2	96.0	102.0	105.7	107.1	27.0	25.9	26.6	26.1	28.0	26.2	26.6	26.3
4	Careless driving ⁽¹⁾	51.5	47.5	43.8	42.1	40.9	11.1	10.5	10.5	10.0	10.6	9.9	10.4	9.9
5	Accident offences	26.7	28.1	28.4	29.5	27.8	7.9	7.4	7.4	6.9	7.7	6.9	6.9	6.4
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	44.2	44.3	46.1	43.0	34.7	11.4	10.9	11.0	9.7	10.2	8.7	8.3	7.4
[7,9 ⁽²⁾ ,10(pt),11,12,14]	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences ⁽¹⁾	1,128.2	1,107.5	1,183.1	1,088.9	860.9	320.2	314.3	230.4	224.1	239.6	214.6	216.8	189.9
13	Vehicle test offences ⁽¹⁾	333.7	328.0	356.2	372.1	344.7	94.1	89.5	97.3	91.2	100.9	84.5	84.3	75.1
25(pt) ⁽³⁾	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽¹⁾	50.3	66.9	77.1	104.5	128.4	23.1	22.4	28.0	30.9	33.7	31.8	32.8	30.1
	Sub-total	1,740.3	1,728.3	1,847.9	1,797.7	1,555.3	497.8	483.9	414.3	401.8	433.8	385.3	388.8	347.5
Offences for which a fixed penalty notice can be given:⁽⁴⁾														
9(pt) ⁽²⁾	Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	*	*	*	557.6	441.8	*	*	117.7	110.4	120.8	108.1	111.3	101.5
10(pt)	Motor vehicle licence obscured or not affixed	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition ⁽⁴⁾	51.5	43.0	37.8	34.6	31.8	8.9	8.2	9.1	8.3	8.8	7.5	7.8	7.6
16	Speed limit offences ⁽⁴⁾	154.7	150.3	144.2	165.5	172.3	38.3	39.0	42.6	45.6	44.2	41.0	43.6	43.5
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights ⁽⁴⁾	45.5	41.8	40.0	42.8	44.6	10.9	10.4	11.2	10.4	12.0	10.5	11.4	10.7
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁴⁾	21.6	21.3	19.4	19.9	15.4	5.0	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.8	3.9	3.2	3.5
21,22	Lighting and noise offences ⁽⁴⁾	25.5	20.6	19.4	17.8	15.9	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.1	4.3	3.9	4.1	3.7
23	Load offences ⁽⁴⁾	14.8	12.8	10.6	11.0	9.4	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.1	1.8
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles ⁽⁴⁾	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8
25(pt)	Seat belt offences	5.7	5.2	4.7	5.0	5.4	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.4
	Sub-total	322.6	298.4	279.2	527.8	740.3	72.4	72.0	195.0	188.4	200.0	179.8	185.9	174.6
	Total	2,062.9	2,026.7	2,127.0	2,325.6	2,295.6	570.2	555.9	609.3	590.1	633.8	565.0	574.7	522.1

(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	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2003				2004			
							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	82.2	82.2	87.5	90.0	92.3	22.9	22.1	22.6	22.4	24.0	22.6	22.9	22.7
4	Careless driving ⁽²⁾	35.9	32.7	29.3	27.2	27.6	7.1	6.9	6.8	6.5	7.1	6.8	7.0	6.8
5	Accident offences	8.2	8.8	8.7	9.1	9.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.2
[7,9 ⁽³⁾ ,10(pt),11,12]	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences ⁽²⁾	328.9	328.6	355.2	246.2	113.5	92.9	95.3	30.1	27.8	31.6	29.3	28.5	24.0
13	Vehicle test offences ⁽²⁾	33.2	30.2	30.8	41.9	39.0	11.2	10.7	10.3	9.7	11.2	9.6	9.7	8.5
25(pt) ⁽⁴⁾	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽²⁾	62.4	61.7	69.4	82.7	108.3	17.8	17.5	22.4	25.0	28.1	27.2	27.7	25.4
	Sub-total	550.7	544.1	580.9	497.1	390.0	154.4	154.7	94.5	93.5	104.5	97.8	98.1	89.6
Offences for which a fixed penalty notice can be given:⁽⁵⁾														
9(pt) ⁽³⁾	Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	*	*	*	140.9	283.1	*	*	72.3	68.6	76.5	68.9	71.9	65.8
10(pt)	Motor vehicle licence obscured or not affixed	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition ⁽⁵⁾	18.3	14.6	12.5	11.7	11.6	2.9	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.8
16	Speed limit offences ⁽⁵⁾	145.0	140.3	132.4	148.9	161.7	34.2	35.3	38.7	40.7	42.6	38.3	40.5	40.2
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights ⁽⁵⁾	34.8	31.2	28.9	27.9	30.2	7.4	6.9	7.1	6.6	8.0	7.1	7.7	7.3
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁵⁾	19.6	19.0	17.6	17.7	14.7	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.5	3.8	3.1	3.3
21,22	Lighting and noise offences ⁽⁵⁾	6.0	4.8	4.4	4.1	4.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
23	Load offences ⁽⁵⁾	10.5	8.9	7.4	7.5	6.6	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.2
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles ⁽⁵⁾	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
25(pt)	Seat belt offences	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
	Sub-total	236.2	220.7	204.9	360.5	514.0	52.4	53.2	128.9	126.1	138.3	124.3	129.3	122.1
	Total	786.9	764.8	785.8	857.6	904.0	206.8	207.8	223.5	219.5	242.8	222.1	227.4	211.7

(1) This table breaks down the figures published in Table 3.1 of "Criminal statistics, England and Wales, 2003" (Cr 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 offence 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 2004 Police force area	Number of offences and percentages									
	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	219,500	1,900	6,300	122,700	88,600	0.9	2.9	55.9	40.4	
Bedfordshire	90,500	1,900	500	65,900	22,200	2.1	0.6	72.8	24.5	
Cambridgeshire	53,900	100	800	36,100	16,800	0.2	1.5	67.1	31.3	
Cheshire	109,500	300	1,000	69,900	38,300	0.3	0.9	63.9	35.0	
Cleveland	65,200	4,100	2,600	30,800	27,700	6.3	3.9	47.3	42.4	
Cumbria	59,000	700	1,700	36,800	19,800	1.2	2.8	62.4	33.6	
Derbyshire	108,500	800	8,400	66,000	33,200	0.8	7.8	60.8	30.6	
Devon and Cornwall	231,700	100	4,600	167,500	59,400	0.1	2.0	72.3	25.6	
Dorset	116,000	200	2,300	77,100	36,400	0.1	2.0	66.5	31.4	
Durham	36,400	800	3,600	12,800	19,200	2.3	9.8	35.1	52.8	
Essex	150,500	200	2,700	101,400	46,200	0.1	1.8	67.4	30.7	
Gloucestershire	57,500	1,000	2,200	31,400	22,900	1.7	3.8	54.6	39.9	
Greater Manchester	309,800	2,100	5,600	102,100	200,000	0.7	1.8	33.0	64.6	
Hampshire	150,000	200	4,500	84,300	61,000	0.1	3.0	56.2	40.7	
Hertfordshire	125,900	1,100	2,800	84,300	37,700	0.9	2.2	67.0	30.0	
Humberside	122,400	200	1,700	84,300	36,200	0.1	1.4	68.9	29.6	
Kent	147,600	400	3,700	79,300	64,100	0.3	2.5	53.7	43.5	
Lancashire	170,100	5,200	2,500	95,200	67,300	3.1	1.5	55.9	39.6	
Leicestershire	112,200	400	1,100	57,400	53,300	0.4	1.0	51.2	47.5	
Lincashire	105,200	300	2,800	59,500	42,500	0.3	2.7	56.6	40.4	
London, City of	33,100	0	100	14,800	18,100	0.1	0.4	44.7	54.8	
Merseyside	99,300	200	1,200	34,200	63,700	0.2	1.2	34.4	64.2	
Metropolitan Police	574,800	800	300	355,100	218,600	0.1	0.1	61.8	38.0	
Norfolk	65,300	100	1,900	39,400	24,000	0.1	2.9	60.3	36.7	
Northamptonshire	92,900	0	900	58,000	34,000	0.0	1.0	62.4	36.6	
Northumbria	244,300	4,800	8,300	171,000	60,200	2.0	3.4	70.0	24.7	
North Yorkshire	43,200	300	900	20,400	21,600	0.8	2.1	47.2	49.9	
Nottinghamshire	110,600	200	1,300	71,200	37,900	0.2	1.2	64.4	34.3	
South Yorkshire	134,600	1,000	3,500	81,100	49,100	0.7	2.6	60.3	36.5	
Staffordshire	105,300	1,300	1,500	59,000	43,400	1.3	1.4	56.1	41.2	
Suffolk	109,100	2,000	2,000	68,000	37,100	1.8	1.8	62.3	34.0	
Surrey	44,300	700	3,100	27,700	12,700	1.6	7.1	62.6	28.6	
Sussex	118,800	1,400	600	99,900	16,900	1.1	0.5	84.1	14.3	
Thames Valley	217,900	1,300	2,200	147,400	66,900	0.6	1.0	67.7	30.7	
Warwickshire	91,300	5,900	3,200	60,300	21,900	6.5	3.5	66.0	24.0	
West Mercia	114,400	500	4,300	80,200	29,300	0.4	3.8	70.2	25.7	
West Midlands	320,600	1,700	5,200	130,500	183,200	0.5	1.6	40.7	57.1	
West Yorkshire	316,400	2,700	5,200	144,900	163,700	0.8	1.6	45.8	51.7	
Wiltshire	97,000	1,800	2,900	60,800	31,500	1.9	3.0	62.6	32.5	
Dyfed Powys	39,200	1,600	4,600	14,800	18,300	4.1	11.6	37.6	46.6	
Gwent	49,900	300	1,800	25,200	22,600	0.6	3.6	50.5	45.2	
North Wales	111,100	1,100	3,600	71,700	34,800	0.9	3.2	64.5	31.3	
South Wales	240,600	7,100	5,900	134,700	92,900	2.9	2.4	56.0	38.6	
England and Wales	5,915,400 ⁽⁴⁾	59,000	125,600	3,435,300	2,295,600	1.0	2.1	58.1	38.8	

(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, 7,653,279 penalty charge notices were issued in 2004 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		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽¹⁾	2002	2003	2004
Offence group	Offence type											
1	Causing death or bodily harm	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
2	Dangerous driving	6.2	6.4	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.2	5.4	6.3	6.8	6.6
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	89.7	92.5	95.7	100.2	93.1	89.4	85.8	84.8	90.5	93.7	96.2
4	Careless driving	64.7	61.9	57.4	55.8	52.1	46.8	41.3	36.9	33.6	31.7	30.5
5	Accident offences	19.3	18.7	17.9	18.0	17.3	16.4	15.8	15.9	16.3	17.1	16.3
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	37.8	33.5	32.2	30.3	30.0	29.5	25.4	24.6	25.8	24.2	21.8
7(pt)	Driving while disqualified	47.1	45.4	42.5	42.5	42.4	43.9	42.8	44.6	48.5	55.6	52.9
7(pt),9-12,14	Other licence, insurance and record keeping offences	733.1	742.3	713.7	703.8	693.9	668.9	670.6	655.3	706.6	816.2	820.3
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	257.3	259.9	243.7	234.6	233.3	227.4	217.2	203.1	211.4	221.9	205.9
16	Speed limit offences	105.1	119.0	130.0	132.8	153.5	153.6	141.4	135.6	124.6	140.1	143.2
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	48.8	48.6	46.5	42.4	40.8	38.2	37.7	34.6	32.6	33.9	35.7
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	20.8	16.2	15.4	15.7	16.8	16.6	14.2	14.0	13.2	14.0	10.7
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	27.0	25.6	24.5	23.3	22.9	21.2	17.9	14.2	13.6	12.4	11.2
23	Load offences	21.6	20.7	19.3	17.8	17.7	14.8	13.3	11.6	9.6	10.0	8.5
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.0	2.1
25(pt)	Non-compliance with notice to owner	17.7	6.6	7.7	11.8	9.9	10.2	3.6	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.5
25(pt)	Seat belt offences	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.6	5.5	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.7	4.1
25(pt)	Miscellaneous motoring offences	28.2	30.8	30.8	31.7	26.0	25.2	25.5	35.6	41.6	63.1	80.3
	Total (thousands)	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	1,549.2
	As a percentage of total court proceedings (Table 1)	63	64	65	66	66	66	66	66	65	67	68

(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 male ⁽¹⁾				Percentage under 21 ⁽¹⁾					
Offence group	Offence type	2000	2001 ⁽²⁾	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001 ⁽²⁾	2002	2003	2004
1	Causing death or bodily harm	95	94	94	94	94	25	26	24	24	26
2	Dangerous driving	97	97	97	96	97	34	38	36	34	34
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	90	90	89	89	89	12	13	12	13	12
4	Careless driving	84	85	85	85	86	16	17	17	18	17
5	Accident offences	88	88	88	87	87	22	22	23	23	22
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	96	96	96	95	96	70	70	67	68	66
7,9-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	89	90	89	89	89	22	23	22	20	18
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	90	91	90	90	90	21	22	22	20	19
16	Speed limit offences	85	84	83	82	82	5	5	4	4	4
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	85	85	84	86	86	8	9	9	11	12
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	78	77	77	76	79	1	1	1	2	1
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	90	90	90	90	90	22	22	22	22	20
23	Load offences	97	97	97	97	97	2	2	2	2	2
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	97	97	97	97	98	79	79	81	77	72
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	81	82	83	84	83	6	5	5	4	3
	Total	89	89	88	88	88	19	20	20	18	16

(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										2004
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
Absolute or conditional discharge or recognizance	79.3	65.1	60.2	56.2	54.7	55.7	50.5	47.2	50.1	51.2	42.2
Community rehabilitation ⁽²⁾ or Supervision order	36.9	32.9	32.5	31.7	31.0	29.6	25.6	26.0	29.9	33.6	31.6
Fine	1,052.4	1,059.6	1,031.6	1,015.2	988.8	918.1	878.4	840.5	859.1	994.6	1,021.7
Community punishment order ⁽²⁾	18.2	17.0	15.2	15.2	15.0	16.2	15.2	15.9	16.9	17.5	19.2
Attendance centre order	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.6
Community punishment and rehabilitation order ⁽²⁾	7.1	8.3	9.7	10.4	10.6	10.2	9.1	7.7	8.2	8.5	8.4
Drug treatment and testing order	*	*	*	*	*(3)	*(3)	0.0	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.2
Secure training order	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.2	0.1	*	*	*	*
Referral order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.5	13.5	9.7
Detention and training order	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.2	3.8	3.3	3.2	2.7
Youth custody / young offender institution	10.7	10.5	9.8	9.6	9.5	10.5	7.4	6.7	6.4	6.2	5.1
Imprisonment:											
Fully suspended sentence	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6
Unsuspending sentence	21.0	22.5	22.4	23.6	23.3	24.6	23.9	24.5	25.0	26.4	23.3
Other ⁽⁴⁾	1.7	2.3	1.8	1.9	2.5	3.1	5.7	11.2	13.7	13.2	16.8
Total sentences or orders	1,231	1,221	1,186	1,166	1,138	1,071	1,020	986	1,026	1,171	1,183
Offence not separately dealt with⁽⁵⁾	282.1	295.2	287.1	288.2	305.6	325.0	327.9	323.0	336.6	358.8	346.5
Sentence or order imposed	by the Crown Court ⁽⁶⁾										2004
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽⁷⁾	2002	2003	
Absolute or conditional discharge	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Community rehabilitation order ⁽²⁾	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9
Fine	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Community punishment order	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8
Community punishment and rehabilitation order ⁽²⁾	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5
Drug treatment and testing order	*	*	*	*	*(3)	*(3)	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4
Secure training order	*	*	*	*	-	0.0	-	*	*	*	*
Detention and training order	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Youth custody / young offender institution	2.8	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8
Imprisonment:											
Fully suspended sentence	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Unsuspending sentence	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.3	6.4	6.0	5.6	5.2	6.1	6.0	5.5
Other ⁽⁴⁾	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
Total sentences or orders	14	14	13	13	13	12	11	10	11.7	11.9	11.5
Offence not separately dealt with⁽⁵⁾	6.3	6.8	7.3	7.5	8.4	8.4	7.3	7.2	8.3	8.5	8.4

(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 1994 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	£	£	£	£	£
1994	123	289	306	121	113	201	261					
1995	127 (120)	300 (284)	299 (283)	121 (115)	107 (101)	212 (201)	275 (260)					
1996	127 (117)	299 (276)	295 (273)	121 (112)	101 (93)	212 (196)	277 (256)					
1997	128 (115)	295 (264)	281 (252)	122 (109)	119 (107)	210 (188)	287 (257)					
1998	130 (113)	325 (282)	263 (228)	118 (102)	135 (117)	201 (174)	299 (259)					
1999	131 (112)	318 (271)	256 (218)	119 (102)	132 (113)	201 (171)	286 (244)					
2000	132 (109)	303 (251)	240 (199)	122 (101)	130 (108)	195 (162)	306 (254)					
2001	122 (99)	292 (238)	203 (165)	142 (116)	132 (107)	146 (119)	270 (220)					
2002	123 (98)	316 (253)	207 (166)	146 (117)	128 (103)	152 (122)	274 (219)					
2003	124 (97)	294 (229)	209 (163)	147 (114)	127 (99)	157 (122)	285 (222)					
2004	129 (97)	376 (284)	217 (164)	150 (113)	119 (90)	166 (125)	317 (240)					

(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	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽³⁾	2002	2003	2004
1	Causing death or bodily harm	250	250	290	270	270	210	250	300	300	300	300
2	Dangerous driving	2,300	2,500	2,300	2,500	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,600	3,000	3,100	3,000
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	5,800	6,200	6,400	7,200	6,900	6,900	6,600	6,600	6,400	6,300	6,100
5	Accident offences	500	400	500	500	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	11,800	11,500	11,100	10,900	10,900	10,500	8,700	8,300	8,500	7,900	6,800
7(pt)	Driving while disqualified ⁽⁴⁾	19,800	21,000	20,300	21,000	21,200	23,300	22,600	23,600	23,700	25,400	21,700
14	Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	100	200	100	100	100	100	90	80	300	100	100
25(pt)	Failing to give name and address etc. after accident	30	40	30	30	30	40	50	30	30	20	30
	Total	40,500	42,000	41,000	42,500	42,200	44,000	41,200	42,100	42,900	43,800	38,600
		Percentage of findings of guilt resulting in an immediate custodial sentence ⁽²⁾										
1	Causing death or bodily harm	73	73	78	79	80	79	81	83	84	90	90
2	Dangerous driving	37	38	40	42	40	44	45	48	48	46	45
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	6	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	7	7	6
5	Accident offences	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	31	34	34	36	36	35	34	34	33	33	31
7(pt)	Driving while disqualified ⁽⁴⁾	42	46	48	49	50	53	53	53	49	45	41
14	Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1
25(pt)	Failing to give name and address etc. when required	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1

(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, 2003 and 2004 includes custodial sentences for 'driving after false declaration as to physical fitness etc' (5 in 2001, 4 in 2003 and 2 in 2004) and 'other driving licence related offences (excluding fraud & forgery)' (1 in 2003 only).

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

England and Wales		Thousands of offences										
Offence group	Offence type	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	8	7	7	8	8	7	7	8 ⁽¹⁾	9	10	11
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	81	84	88	93	86	83	80	79 ⁽¹⁾	85	87	90
6-25	Other offences	65	64	61	60	64	66	66	78 ⁽¹⁾	90	93	90
	Total	155	155	156	161	158	156	153	165 ⁽¹⁾	184	191	190
	Persons disqualified under the penalty points system⁽²⁾	33	32	31	31	33 ⁽³⁾	34	34	30 ⁽¹⁾	30	33	31
		Endorsements without disqualifications										
1-5	Dangerous, drunken, careless driving and accident offences	86	81	74	72	67	61	55	50	47	44	41
16-19	Speed limit offences and neglect of traffic signs, directions and of pedestrian rights	702	781	852	974	1,052	1,066 ⁽⁴⁾	1,196 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	1,388 ⁽⁴⁾	1,653 ⁽⁴⁾	2,200 ⁽⁶⁾	2,224
7,9,10,12	Licence and insurance offences	383	374	351	344	337	364	374	369	394	448	453
[6, 11, 13-15, 20-25]	Other offences	73	74	73	75	70	61	52	49	49	64	82
	Total	1,244	1,310	1,350	1,464	1,525	1,552 ⁽⁴⁾	1,677 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	1,856 ⁽⁴⁾	2,143 ⁽⁴⁾	2,756 ⁽⁶⁾	2,801
	Of which:											
	As a result of a fixed penalty notice ⁽⁷⁾	583	651	717	841	903	915 ⁽⁴⁾	1,051 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	1,256 ⁽⁴⁾	1,532 ⁽⁴⁾	2,069 ⁽⁶⁾	2,089

(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) Revised. See Note 9.

(7) 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	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽²⁾	2002	2003	2004
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	2,700	2,600	2,300	2,700	2,200	2,100	2,000	2,200	2,600	3,000	2,900
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	48,700	49,700	51,900	57,000	54,600	52,900	52,300	53,500	57,900	59,600	62,300
6-25	Other offences	13,900	12,800	11,700	12,000	12,100	12,000	11,700	12,300	13,900	14,800	15,300
	All offences	65,300	65,100	65,900	71,800	68,900	66,900	65,900	68,000	74,400	77,400	80,500
		Disqualifications of over 1 year										
		Percentage of all disqualifications that were over 1 year										
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	34	33	35	34	28	28	27	28	28	29	27
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	60	59	59	61	63	64	65	67	68	69	69
6-25	Other offences	21	20	19	20	19	18	18	16	16	16	17
	All offences	42	42	42	45	44	43	43	41	41	41	42

(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	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total number of tests	678.5	702.7	781.1	800.3 ⁽¹⁾	815.5	764.5	714.8	623.9	570.2	534.3	577.6
Number positive or refused	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⁾	103.0 ⁽²⁾
% Positive or refused	14	13	13	13	13	12	13	16	18	20	18

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

Table 19 Screening breath tests by outcome and quarter

England and Wales												Thousands and percentages	
Outcome	2002 ⁽¹⁾				2003 ⁽¹⁾				2004 ⁽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	132.5	131.0	127.6	179.1	130.1	119.3	122.6	162.3	127.0	129.6	136.4	184.6	
Number positive or refused	24.6	25.4	25.9	27.6	25.7	26.4	26.4	27.9	24.8	25.9	25.6	26.8	
% Positive or refused	19	19	20	15	20	22	22	17	20	20	19	14	

(1) See Note 16.

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

England and Wales 2004 ⁽¹⁾			Numbers and percentages
Month	Total tests	Positive / refused	% Positive / refused
January	46,200	8,400	18
February	40,300	8,000	20
March	40,600	8,400	21
April	41,800	8,800	21
May	43,200	8,800	20
June	44,600	8,200	18
July	46,000	8,800	19
August	45,000	8,400	19
September	45,400	8,400	19
October	45,900	9,200	20
November	52,000	9,000	17
December	86,800	8,600	10
Total	577,600	103,000	18

(1) See Note 16.

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

Police force area	2003 ⁽¹⁾				2004 ⁽¹⁾				Numbers and percentages	
	Total tests	Total tests per 100,000 pop	Positive / refused	% Positive / refused	Total tests	Total tests per 100,000 pop	Positive / refused	% Positive / refused	Positive per 100,000 pop	Positive / refused
	tests	100,000 pop	per 100,000 pop	per 100,000 pop	tests	100,000 pop	per 100,000 pop	per 100,000 pop	per 100,000 pop	per 100,000 pop
Avon and Somerset	24,500	1,643	3,300	221	27,300	1,810	3,000	201	201	11
Bedfordshire	6,600	1,162	1,100	196	7,800	1,353	1,100	199	199	15
Cambridgeshire	12,300	1,717	1,300	176	12,300	1,685	1,300	172	172	10
Cheshire	11,900	1,202	2,400	243	20,200	2,035	2,400	245	245	12
Cleveland	8,700	1,611	1,100	201	8,100	1,453	700	122	122	8
Cumbria	5,500	1,129	600	133	8,400	1,721	700	139	139	8
Derbyshire	32,600	3,384	1,700	174	31,000	3,178	2,100	218	218	7
Devon and Cornwall	10,900	686	3,000	186	10,700	668	2,800	175	175	26
Dorset	8,500	1,216	1,700	245	7,000	992	1,700	241	241	24
Durham	7,600	1,281	1,100	192	6,100	1,026	1,200	204	204	20
Essex	15,500	954	2,800	170	25,300	1,555	3,000	183	183	12
Gloucestershire	8,600	1,525	1,400	253	7,100	1,257	1,300	225	225	18
Greater Manchester	20,900	832	7,100	282	19,900	786	6,300	249	249	32
Hampshire	37,500	2,097	4,000	223	38,400	2,137	3,800	212	212	10
Hertfordshire	4,000	387	2,100	200	7,300	700	2,000	195	195	28
Humburside	6,500	752	1,500	177	5,600	637	700	80	80	13
Kent	24,600	1,545	3,000	188	32,000	2,001	3,200	199	199	10
Lancashire	8,000	561	2,900	203	10,200	714	2,900	203	203	28
Leicestershire	12,000	1,286	2,300	244	15,400	1,640	2,200	237	237	14
Lincolnshire	12,100	1,836	1,100	162	11,300	1,700	900	141	141	8
London, City of ⁽²⁾	1,200	..	200	..	700	..	100	..	..	20
Merseyside	7,700	567	2,300	169	5,000	368	2,300	167	167	45
Metropolitan Police	56,000	762	16,000	218	61,500	834	15,700	213	213	26
Norfolk	4,000	502	1,200	150	4,800	593	1,000	122	122	21
Northamptonshire	3,100	490	1,300	198	3,200	498	1,200	189	189	38
Northumbria	11,100	805	2,600	187	9,800	702	2,200	157	157	22
North Yorkshire	8,300	1,093	1,200	155	8,600	1,131	1,500	197	197	17
Nottinghamshire	7,100	698	2,500	240	8,200	801	2,500	244	244	30
South Yorkshire	12,100	956	1,800	141	6,500	510	2,400	190	190	37
Staffordshire	5,100	484	1,800	177	13,700	1,303	1,900	180	180	14
Suffolk	11,600	1,721	1,300	198	10,600	1,559	1,200	177	177	11
Surrey	8,900	836	900	89	9,500	891	1,100	100	100	11
Sussex	17,200	1,143	2,000	133	15,200	1,010	2,200	146	146	14
Thames Valley	16,000	764	6,300	300	15,400	727	4,000	188	188	26
Warwickshire	5,800	1,141	900	169	5,500	1,058	700	142	142	13
West Mercia	6,300	538	2,400	207	8,000	681	2,400	207	207	30
West Midlands	11,000	426	4,800	185	6,600	255	4,800	187	187	73
West Yorkshire	14,200	678	3,600	171	16,900	807	4,300	205	205	25
Wiltshire	5,900	951	1,200	186	7,400	1,189	1,300	214	214	18
Dyfed-Powys	6,000	1,211	1,100	220	6,700	1,341	1,100	213	213	16
Gwent	2,800	504	1,300	228	1,600	294	1,300	226	226	77
North Wales	17,300	2,594	1,400	204	24,200	3,604	1,400	214	214	6
South Wales	16,900	1,403	3,000	250	16,700	1,379	3,000	249	249	18
Total	534,300	1,018	106,300	203	577,600	1,094	103,000	195	195	18

(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	2004
London local authorities						
Penalty charge notices issued	3,663.5	4,020.9	4,221.9	4,798.8	5,053.0	5,391.9
<i>of which</i>						
Paid within 14 days	1,412.3	1,418.6	1,835.6	2,017.6	2,220.9	2,500.1
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	387.7	388.1	444.0	517.8	550.4	809.3
Paid after charge certificate served	..	..	96.6	130.9	164.2	133.9
Sub-total paid	1,800.1	1,806.7	2,376.2	2,666.2	2,935.4	3,443.4
Cases going for adjudication	39.0	33.5	32.0	64.1	46.7	56.3
Number of certificates registered	537.5	539.5	827.8	990.1	788.2	775.4
No further action taken ⁽¹⁾	672.6	539.4	611.9	1,014.7	965.6	903.2
Total ⁽²⁾	3,049.1	2,919.0	3,847.9	4,735.0	4,735.8	5,178.5
Number of vehicles wheelclamped	77.6	83.0	93.5	107.6	114.7	102.1
Number of vehicles removed	43.6	71.0	36.1	97.9	68.3	68.2
Other local authorities						
Penalty charge notices issued	292.1	634.4	1,081.1	1,614.3	2,069.6	2,261.3
<i>of which</i>						
Paid within 14 days	162.9	334.6	550.6	775.3	1,035.0	1,176.1
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	34.1	58.2	135.3	213.7	270.5	277.5
Paid after charge certificate served	9.6	26.8	33.5	49.9	56.0	61.2
Sub-total paid	206.6	419.6	719.4	1,038.8	1,361.5	1,514.8
Cases going for adjudication	1.4	1.8	2.9	5.1	6.6	8.0
Number of certificates registered	26.1	78.4	113.6	223.4	245.6	272.8
No further action taken ⁽¹⁾	44.5	94.1	163.2	294.0	396.0	366.4
Total ⁽⁴⁾	278.5	593.8	999.1	1,561.4	2,009.7	2,162.2
Number of vehicles wheelclamped ⁽³⁾	0.4	2.1	2.6	4.0	1.6	0.8
Number of vehicles removed ⁽³⁾	4.8	11.2	14.3	22.2	18.4	14.3
Number of local authorities issuing PCNs	9	25	44	61	83	98
England and Wales⁽⁴⁾						
Penalty charge notices issued	3,955.6	4,655.3	5,303.0	6,413.1	7,122.6	7,653.2
<i>of which</i>						
Paid within 14 days	1,575.2	1,753.2	2,386.2	2,792.8	3,255.9	3,676.2
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	421.8	446.3	579.2	731.5	820.9	1,086.8
Paid after charge certificate served	9.6	26.8	130.1	180.7	220.2	195.1
Sub-total paid	2,006.6	2,226.2	3,095.6	3,705.0	4,296.9	4,958.3
Cases going for adjudication	40.4	35.2	34.9	69.2	53.3	64.4
Number of certificates registered	563.6	617.8	941.4	1,213.4	1,033.8	1,048.3
No further action taken ⁽¹⁾	717.1	633.5	775.0	1,308.7	1,361.5	1,269.6
Total ⁽⁵⁾	3,327.7	3,512.9	4,847.0	6,296.3	6,745.5	7,340.7
Number of vehicles wheelclamped ⁽³⁾	78.0	85.1	96.1	111.5	116.3	102.1
Number of vehicles removed ⁽³⁾	48.4	82.2	50.4	120.1	86.7	82.5
Number of local authorities issuing PCNs ⁽⁵⁾	10	26	45	62	84	99

(1) 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.

(2) 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 2004.

(3) Not all local authorities collect this data.

(4) The first Welsh local authority joined the scheme in 2004.

(5) 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	2004
London local authorities						
Paid within 14 days	46.3	48.6	47.7	42.6	46.9	48.0
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	12.7	13.3	11.5	10.9	11.6	16.0
Paid after charge certificate served	..	..	2.5	2.8	3.5	3.0
Sub-total paid	59.0	61.9	61.8	56.3	62.0	66.0
Cases going for adjudication	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.0	1.0
Number of certificates registered	17.6	18.5	21.5	20.9	16.6	15.0
No further action taken ⁽¹⁾	22.1	18.5	15.9	21.4	20.4	16.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other local authorities						
Paid within 14 days	58.5	56.3	55.1	49.7	51.5	52.0
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	12.2	9.8	13.5	13.7	13.5	12.2
Paid after charge certificate served	3.4	4.5	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.7
Sub-total paid	74.2	70.7	72.0	66.5	67.7	66.9
Cases going for adjudication	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Number of certificates registered	9.4	13.2	11.4	14.3	12.2	12.0
No further action taken ⁽¹⁾	16.0	15.8	16.3	18.8	19.7	16.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
England and Wales⁽²⁾						
Paid within 14 days	47.3	49.9	49.2	44.4	48.3	50.0
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	12.7	12.7	11.9	11.6	12.2	15.0
Paid after charge certificate served	0.3	0.8	2.7	2.9	3.3	3.0
Sub-total paid	60.3	63.4	63.9	58.8	63.7	67.0
Cases going for adjudication	1.2	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.8	1.0
Number of certificates registered	16.9	17.6	19.4	19.3	15.3	14.0
No further action taken ⁽¹⁾	21.5	18.0	16.0	20.8	20.2	17.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

Court proceedings

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 *Humberside, 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 *Northamptonshire's* 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. No significant shortfalls were identified in 2004.

Penalty Charge Notices

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).

Fixed Penalty Notices

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. Following publication of 2003 data Derbyshire, Lancashire and North Wales police force areas revised down their 2003 figures and in consequence national data have been adjusted.

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 Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Issue 19/05 "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 2004" 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 2004 there are 84 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 2004 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 2004 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 Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, South Yorkshire, 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 and 2003.

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 2004'. 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 (2003 data)
Table 21(b)	Fixed penalty notices by result and police force area - percentages (2003 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 (RDS)
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