



Home Office

User guide to football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales, 2016 to 2017 season

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1. Introduction

The '[Football-related arrests and banning orders statistics, England and Wales, 2016 to 2017 season](#)' publication provides statistics on arrests and banning orders in connection with regulated international and domestic football matches¹ involving English and Welsh clubs and national teams.

Football-related arrests are those to which Schedule 1 of the Football Spectators Act 1989 (as amended) applies², reported by police to the Home Office United Kingdom Football Policing Unit (UKFPU). This includes football-specific offences (such as pitch incursion and throwing missiles inside a stadium) and a range of generic criminal offences committed in connection with a football match (at any place within a period of 24 hours either side of a match).

Since the 2012 to 2013 football season, information on football-related arrests by the British Transport Police (BTP) has been included in the accompanying data tables, 'Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales: data tables'. Previously, they were published by BTP. As a result, caution should be taken when comparing football-related arrests prior to the 2012 to 2013 season.

Football banning orders are preventative measures issued by the courts either following a conviction for a football-related offence³ or made following a complaint by a local police force including BTP, or the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)⁴.

The statistics in this release are based on information provided by UKFPU. Statistics on football-related arrests were submitted by all 43 police forces in England and Wales and BTP. Data on banning orders were taken from the Football Banning Order Authority's (FBOA, part of UKFPU) records. Statistics on football-related arrests cover the 2016 to 2017 season (1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017) and information on football banning orders is reported as at 7 August 2017.

The National League is split into 3 divisions: National Division, Southern Division and Northern Division. The UKFPU do not hold any arrest data on teams in the Southern and Northern divisions therefore they are not shown in the tables.

¹ Articles 3-4 of the [Football Spectators \(Prescription\) Order 2004 \(as amended\)](#) describe a regulated match.

² [Football Spectators Act 1989](#)

³ Section 14A of the [Football Spectators Act 1989](#)

⁴ Section 14B of the [Football Spectators Act 1989](#)

2. Uses of the statistics

Uses made of the statistics on football-related arrests and banning orders are listed below using the standard categorisation for official statistics (as shown in the United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) monitoring brief 6/2010, [The Use Made of Official Statistics](#)).

a) Informing the general public's choices:

- **about the state of the economy, society and the environment** – figures on football-related arrests and banning orders are used by national and local media in reports of the behaviour of football supporters
- **about the activity of the police** – figures on football-related arrests and banning orders are requested via Parliamentary Questions and Freedom of Information requests

b) Government policy making and monitoring:

Football-related arrests and banning orders statistics are used to inform government policy and operational decisions by the police.

c) Resource allocation – typically by central and local government:

Statistics on football-related arrests and banning orders demonstrate the scale of football disorder; and the Police and CPS activities.

3. Football banning orders

The statutory duration of a football banning order is a minimum period of 3 years and no more than 5 years. In cases where a custodial sentence was imposed for the original offence, a minimum period of 6 years and no more than 10 years applies.

Football banning orders are preventative measures issued by the courts either following a conviction for a football-related offence, or following a complaint by a local police force, BTP or CPS. The court must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that issuing a banning order would help to prevent violence or disorder at or in connection with any regulated football match.

Banning orders are unlikely to be imposed on individuals solely on the basis of a single conviction for a minor first offence. Additional evidence can be introduced to the banning order applications. Banning orders last between a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 10 years and can be customised to address individual offending behaviour. Breach of an order is a criminal offence and is punishable by a maximum sentence of 6 months in prison or an unlimited fine or both⁵.

Although in general one banning order equates to one individual, the number of banning orders is not necessarily the same as the number of individuals with banning orders as an individual can be subject to more than one. Furthermore, a banned individual may follow more than one football club so their banning order would appear more than once in the figures.

There is not necessarily a correlation between the number of arrests in a given season and the number of new banning orders for that same season. This is because an individual with a ban can receive the ban one of two ways, either following a conviction for a football-related offence (which led to a banning order hearing) or receiving a ban via the civil route (where the individual has not necessarily been arrested). An example of the latter could be that intelligence had been gathered on an individual and this led to a ban via the complaints process to a court.

In addition, the time from an arrest to the imposition of a banning order can vary in length and could mean, for example, that an individual arrested during the 2016 to 2017 season would be included in the 2016 to 2017 arrest figures, but due to the timing of criminal justice system proceedings the ban would not be included in the banning order figures until the 2017 to 2018 season.

⁵ [Section 85 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#)

4. Quality and methodology

Data coverage

Figures in the '[Football-related arrests and banning orders statistics, England and Wales, 2016 to 2017 season](#)' publication cover the number of football banning orders issued by courts in England and Wales and the number of football-related arrests in connection with regulated international and domestic football matches involving English and Welsh clubs and the national teams.

Statistics on football-related arrests cover the 2016 to 2017 season (1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017) and are presented by club/league, competition, offence type, location and arrest rate per 100,000 population.

Information on the total number of football banning orders in force is reported as at 7 August 2017 (data reference dates for new banning orders issued in the 2016 to 2017 season were 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017). Banning orders are presented in the release by club/league and trend over the last 7 seasons.

Data collection and preparatory work

Throughout the season, football-related arrests and banning order data are collected and submitted to UKFPU by police forces in England and Wales and the BTP. Banning orders data are submitted to the FBOA by courts in England and Wales or the CPS. Following the court making a football banning order, it is required to notify FBOA, who administers the banning order.

Once all data have been received and collated by UKFPU, officials carry out a sense check and query any outliers or anomalies with the respective Dedicated Football Officer (DFO).

The data are then supplied to Home Office statisticians by UKFPU. Following this, the data undergo further scrutiny by Home Office statisticians, including validation and variance checks as part of their quality assurance process, for example to ensure that the number of banning orders issued in the 2016 to 2017 season do not exceed the total number of banning orders as at 7 August 2017.

Data which still appear to be outliers or anomalies are sent to UKFPU for further investigation and where necessary are followed up with the relevant DFO.

Comparability with figures prior to 2014 to 2015 season

Previously, the '[Football-related arrests and banning orders statistics, England and Wales](#)' publications were prepared and published by Home Office policy officials. In 2015, responsibility of the publication process, including the preparation of the final accompanying data tables, was transferred to Home Office statisticians who

prepared the 2014 to 2015 publication and subsequent publications. UKFPU continues to receive and collate information submitted by police forces, BTP, courts and CPS.

Caution should be taken when making season-on-season comparisons with regards to the statistics on new football banning orders, as the time period covering each data extraction varied from year to year.

- 2011 to 2012 (data reference dates: 30/11/2011 to 09/11/2012)
- 2012 to 2013 (data reference dates: 10/11/2012 to 20/09/2013)
- 2013 to 2014 (data reference dates: 21/09/2013 to 03/09/2014)
- 2014 to 2015 (data reference dates: 04/09/2014 to 08/09/2015)
- 2015 to 2016 (data reference dates: 31/07/2015 to 01/08/2016)⁶
- 2016 to 2017 (data reference dates: 01/08/2016 to 31/07/2017)

The overlap between the years 2014 to 2015 and 2015 to 2016 may have resulted in some double counting.

Improvements made to the 2016 to 2017 season's publication

Improvements have been made to the presentation of the tables; the main tables and supplementary tables have been combined into one set of tables and include a time series. Several of the tables include filters (buttons in the cells at the top of columns) to allow users to compare data from across the football seasons and perform their own calculations. This is to promote transparency and allow users to exploit the data further

Changes to future publications

From the 2017 to 2018 football season's publication, football-related arrests made by BTP will not be included in Tables 5 to 9 (arrests by club, league, offence type, competition and location) as it is not always possible to identify which team the individual supports or which fixture they are travelling to or from. Tables 5 to 9 from the 2014 to 2015 to 2016 to 2017 season will be revised to exclude football-related arrests made by BTP to enable a comparable time-series. However, an overall table on BTP football-related arrests by offence type will continue to be published in Table 10 of the 'Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales, 2016 to 2017 season'.

No changes will be made to Tables 1 to 4 relating to football banning orders.

⁶ The dates of extraction for this season have been adjusted to standardise data reference dates for future publications.

Rounding

Data are provided unrounded in the accompanying data tables of 'Football-related arrests and banning orders, England and Wales' publication. This is to promote transparency and allow users to exploit the data further. However, caution should be taken when comparing small differences between time periods as figures are not necessarily accurate to the last digit.

Percentages are rounded to the nearest percent; for example, 23.3% would be rounded to 23% and -23.6 will be rounded to -24%.

Where data are rounded, they may not sum to the totals shown, or, in the case of percentages, to 100% because they have been rounded independently.

5. Further information

Where are the latest published figures?

Forthcoming publications are pre-announced on the statistics release calendar on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

The football-related arrests and banning orders statistics, England and Wales statistical releases can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/football-banning-orders>

Feedback and enquiries

We welcome feedback on this statistics release. If you have any feedback or enquiries about this publication, please email the Fire, Licensing & Public Order Analysis Unit at: publicorderstatistics@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or write to: Fire, Licensing & Public Order Analysis Unit, 14th Floor, Lunar House, 40 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR9 2BY.

The 'Football-related arrests and banning orders, England and Wales, 2016 to 2017 season' statistical release is an Official Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by statisticians working in the Home Office Analysis and Insight Directorate in accordance with the '[Home Office's statement of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#)' which covers our policy on revisions and other matters.

The Chief Statistician, as Head of Profession, reports to the National Statistician with respect to all professional statistical matters and oversees all Home Office National Statistics products with respect to the [Code](#), being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.