



Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales, 2017-18 season

Football banning orders

As at 1 August 2018:

- 1,822 football banning orders were in force, a decrease of 6% (-107) compared with those as at 7 August 2017.
- Of these, 460 were new football banning orders issued between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018, an 11% (-57) decrease compared with the previous season.
- There has been a steady decline in the total number of football banning orders in force in the last 7 seasons, falling by 43% (-1,352) from 3,174 on 29 November 2011.

Football-related arrests

In the 2017-18 season, there were:

- 1,542 football-related arrests, a 6% decrease of 96 on the previous season.
- Of these, the three most common offence types were public disorder (36%), violent disorder (20%) and pitch incursion (12%)
- 3.5 football-related arrests per 100,000 attendees.

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1 Introduction

This release provides statistics on football-related arrests and football banning orders in connection with regulated international and domestic football matches involving English and Welsh clubs and the national teams.

The [user guide](#) provides additional information on the coverage of the data, quality and methodology, and also information on the conventions used in the statistics, legislation and regulations.

The 'Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales (E&W), 2017-18 season' [data tables](#) provide supplementary data to those presented in this release.

2 Football banning orders

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, British Transport Police (BTP), or the Crown Prosecution Service.

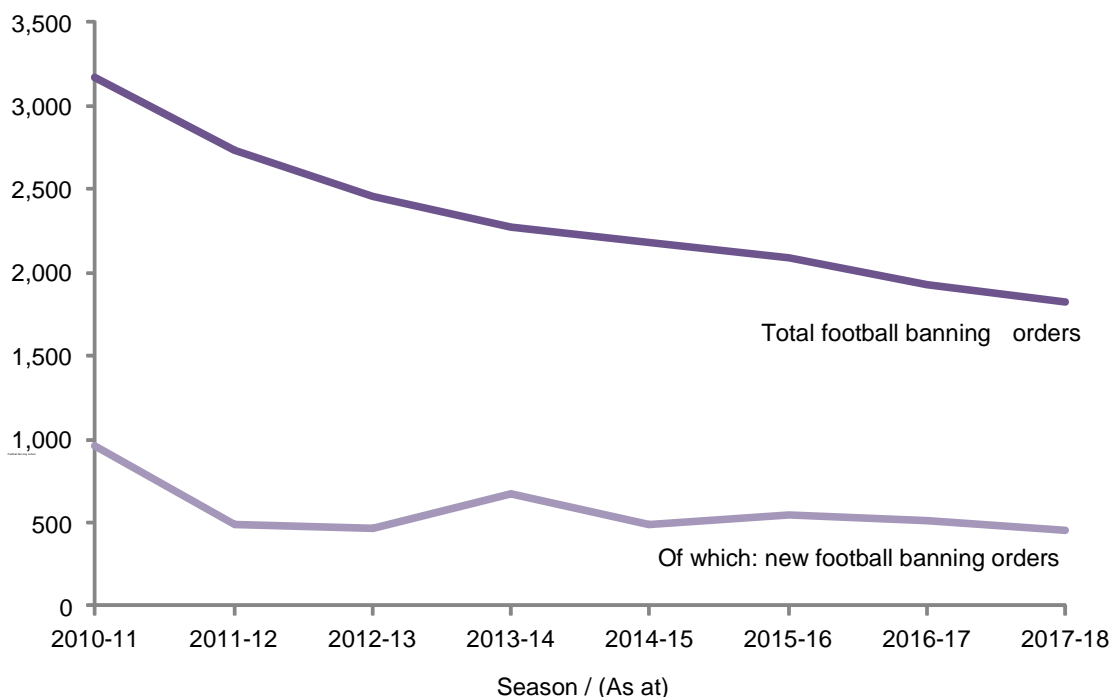
The statutory duration of a football banning order is a minimum period of 3 years and no more than 5 years. In cases where a custodial sentence was imposed for the original offence a minimum period of 6 years and no more than 10 years applies. For more information, see section 5.2 of the [user guide](#).

2.1 Football banning orders are decreasing

As at 1 August 2018, there were 1,822 football banning orders in force representing a decrease of 6% from 1,929 (7 August 2017). This continues the downward trend seen in the number of football banning orders in force in the last 7 seasons, falling by 43% from 3,174 on 29 November 2011.

Of the 1,822 football banning orders, a quarter (460) were new banning orders issued between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018. This is an 11% (-57) decrease in new banning orders imposed when compared with the previous season.

Figure 1: Number of football banning orders in force in England and Wales, from 2010-11 season to 2017-18 season



Source: Home Office, Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales, 2017-2018 season, [Tables 2 and 4](#).

Caution should be taken when making season-on-season comparisons as the date the new football banning orders data were extracted varied from year to year. See the [user guide](#) for football banning order extraction dates.

In the 2017-18 season, Newcastle United supporters had the highest number of football banning orders for the fourth consecutive year (79 football banning orders; 4% of the total); and the biggest decrease in number compared with the previous season.

Table 1: Clubs with highest number of football banning orders, 2017-18 season compared to 2016-17 season

Football club	2016-17 season		2017-18 season	
	Football banning orders	Ranking	Football banning orders	Ranking
Newcastle United	111	1	79	1
Wolverhampton Wanderers	75	2	64	2
Sheffield United	37	13 (joint)	53	3
West Ham United	57	3	52	4
Birmingham City	41	9	50	=5
Grimsby Town	32	19	50	

Source: Home Office, Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales, 2017-18 season, [Table 1](#).

In the 2017-18 season, Grimsby Town and Sunderland supporters were issued the highest number of new football banning orders (28 each). Sunderland also had the largest increase in football banning orders. In the previous season, Wolverhampton Wanderers supporters were issued the highest number of new football banning orders; however, they saw the biggest decrease from 32 to 5 new football banning orders issued in the latest season.

Table 2: Clubs with highest number of new football banning orders, 2017-18 season compared to 2016-17 season

Football club	2016-17 season		2017-18 season	
	Football banning orders	Ranking	Football banning orders	Ranking
Grimsby Town	20	5	28	=1
Sunderland	2	53 (joint)	28	
Sheffield United	10	18	25	3
Birmingham City	18	6	18	4
Tranmere Rovers	3	44 (joint)	15	5

Source: Home Office, Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales, 2017-18 season, [Table 3](#).

3 Football-related arrests

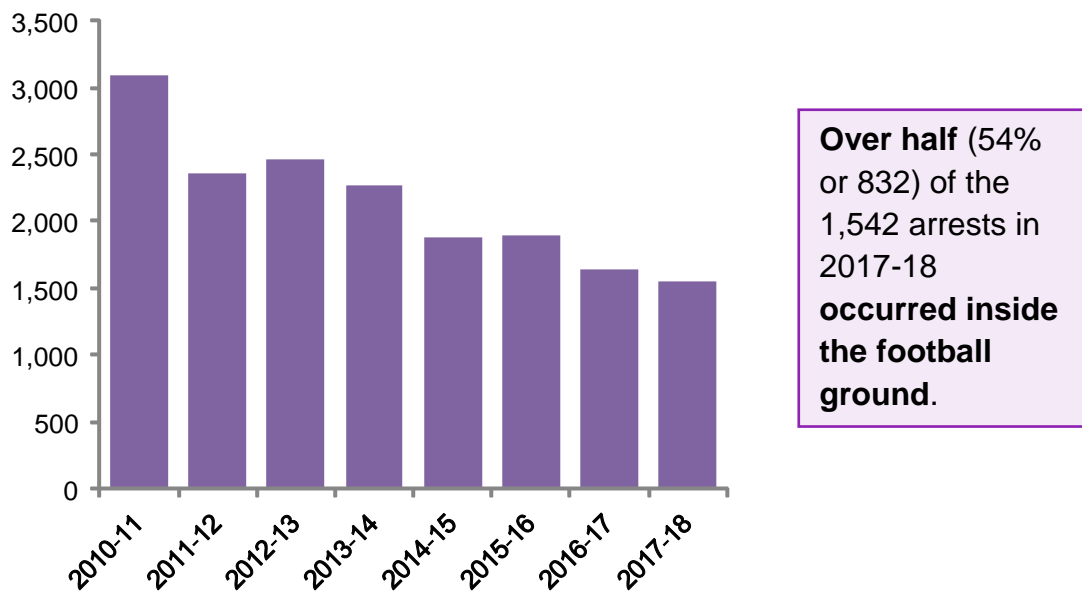
Statistics on football-related arrests are submitted by the 43 police forces in England and Wales, and BTP to the United Kingdom Football Policing Unit (UKFPU).

Football-related arrests are those to which Schedule 1 of the [Football Spectators Act 1989 \(as amended\)](#) applies. 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 regulated fixture).

3.1 Football-related arrests continue to decrease

During the 2017-18 season, there were 1,542 football-related arrests (excluding BTP arrests, see section below) in connection with regulated international and domestic football matches involving English and Welsh clubs and the national teams. This is a 6% decrease (-96) compared with the previous season and continues the overall downward trend over the last 7 seasons, with the number of football-related arrests falling by 50% since the 2010-11 season (from 3,089 to 1,542).

Figure 2: Football-related arrests, from 2010-11 season to 2017-18 season



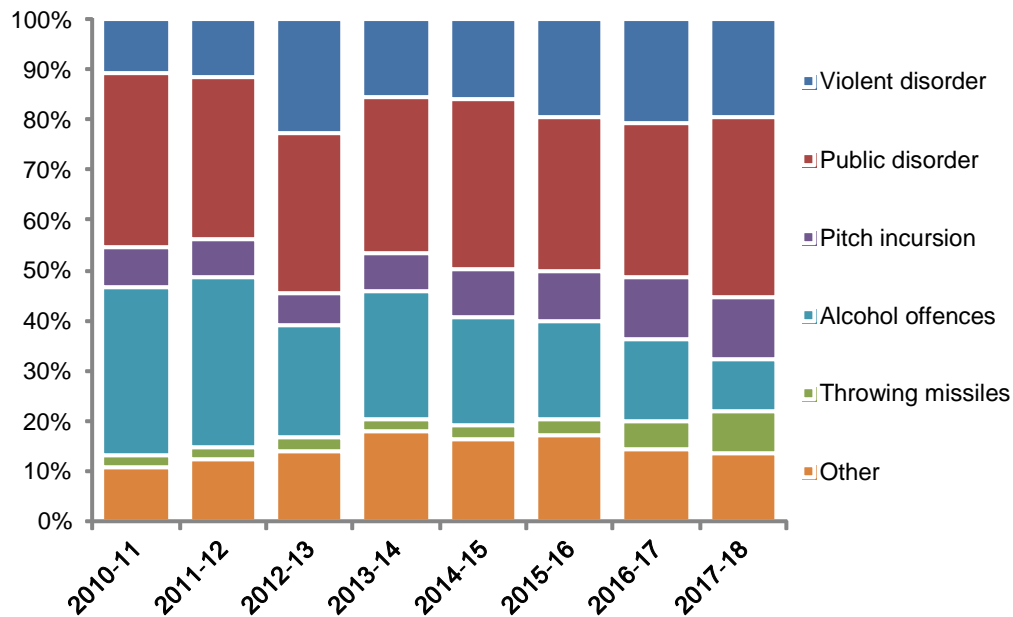
Source: Home Office, Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales, 2017-18 season, [Table 7](#). Figures include arrests at all regulated international and domestic football matches involving English and Welsh clubs and the national teams, playing in the UK and overseas.

During the 2017-18 season, there were 30 football-related arrests at England and Wales national team matches; of which, 23 (77%) occurred outside of England and Wales. During the same period, there were 41 football-related arrests at European matches (i.e. matches where an England or Wales team played a European team); of which only 3 occurred outside of England and Wales.

3.2 Most common football-related offence type was public disorder

The 3 most common offence types were public disorder (36%), violent disorder (20%) and pitch incursion (12%). Public disorder and violent disorder have ranked within the top 3 offence types in each of the last 8 seasons, this is the first time that pitch incursion has appeared within the top 3. Conversely, arrests for alcohol offences has now dropped out of the top 3 following a 38% fall (from 266 to 164) in the latest season.

Figure 3: Football-related arrests by offence type, from 2010-11 season to 2017-18 season



Source: Home Office, Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales, 2017-18 season, [Table 6](#). Figures include arrests at all regulated international and domestic football matches involving English and Welsh clubs and the national teams, playing in the UK and overseas.

Although there has been a decrease in total number of arrests over the last 5 seasons, there have been fluctuations within the offence types. For example, arrests for public disorder offences had been steadily decreasing since the 2010-11 season; however, they have increased in the latest season (from 505 to 549 arrests). Conversely, arrests for pitch incursion were increasing; however, they have decreased in the latest season (from 204 to 191). See [Table 6](#).

The location of an arrest can vary by club supported. Excluding the national teams, 52% (748) of the 1,444 football-related arrests were at away games.

Figure 4: Clubs with the highest number of supporters arrested, 2017-18 season

1) Birmingham City



95 arrests
72% at home games
31 public disorder arrests

2) Sheffield United



62 arrests
40% at home games
29 public disorder arrests

3) Sunderland



60 arrests
77% at home games
29 public disorder arrests

4) Portsmouth



59 arrests
88% at home games
28 violent disorder arrests

5) Aston Villa



48 arrests
33% at home games
20 violent disorder arrests

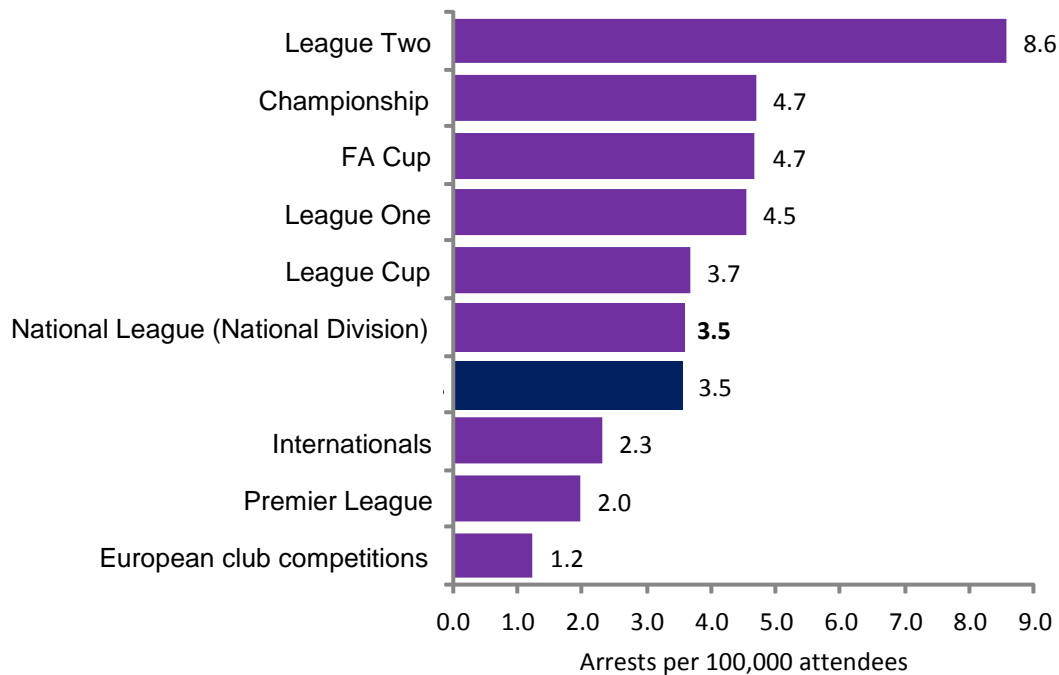
Source: Home Office, Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales, 2017-18 season, [Table 5](#).

3.3 There were 3.5 football-related arrests per 100,000 attendees by competition

The football-related arrest rate¹ in the 2017-18 season was 3.5 arrests per 100,000 attendees. Of all competitions with 30 arrests or more, League Two had the highest arrest rate of 8.6 per 100,000 attendees whilst European club competitions had the lowest arrest rate of 1.2 arrests per 100,000 attendees.

¹ Football-related arrests rate excludes 'other' competitions which include Community Shield, Under-21 internationals, pre-season friendlies.

Figure 5: Football-related arrest rate per 100,000 attendees by competition, 2017-18 season



Source: Home Office, Football-related arrests and banning order statistics, England and Wales, 2017 to 2018 season, [Table 11](#) and © The Sun Football Yearbook 2018 to 2019 (Attendance figures). Figures include arrests at all regulated international and domestic football matches involving English and Welsh clubs and the national teams, playing in the UK and overseas. Excludes 'other' competitions which include Community Shield, Under-21 internationals and Pre-season friendlies. Excludes competitions with less than 30 arrests.

3.4 Football-related arrests by BTP decrease

In 2017-18 season, there were an additional 121 football-related arrests by BTP in connection with regulated international and domestic football matches involving English and Welsh clubs and the national teams. This represents a 15% decrease from 143 in the previous season. The most common offence type was public disorder (56%).

However, compared with the 2015-16 season, the total number of BTP football-related arrests has fallen by 65% (-227).

4 Further information

4.1 Improvements this year

Improvements have been made to the presentation of the commentary. From this year'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 2014-15 to 2016-17 season have been 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: data tables'. No changes will be made to Tables 1 to 4 relating to football banning orders.

4.2 Forthcoming and previous statistical releases

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>.

4.3 Feedback and enquiries

Media enquiries via Home Office news desk

Office hours: 020 7035 3535; 7am-8pm Monday to Friday.

Statistical or public enquiries

To contact the Fire, Licensing and Public Order Analysis Unit please email:

FLPOAU@homeoffice.gov.uk

The 'Football-related arrests and banning order statistics' 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 of Practice for Statistics](#), being responsible for their timing, content and methodology.

5 User guide

5.1 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 to mitigate the risk of future football-related disorder.

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.

5.2 Definitions and legislation

The football banning order is a preventative measure imposed by a court. A banning order may be made where a person is convicted of a football-related offence. The court must be satisfied that the individual has been convicted of a football-related offence, that the conviction is in connection with a regulated football match and that the making of an order would help prevent violence or disorder at or in connection with regulated football matches. The police, BTP or CPS may make an application to the court to impose a football banning order if the person in question has at any time caused or contributed to violence or disorder, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.

A banning order is not usually made against an individual solely because of a single conviction for a minor first offence. Additional evidence can be introduced to the banning order application. Banning orders last between a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 10 years and can be customised to address individual offending behaviour. The 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 both (section 85 of the [Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012](#)).

During a 'control period' for an overseas regulated football match or tournament the enforcing authority (Football Banning Orders Authority) can issue a notice to a person subject to a football banning order requesting that they report to a local police station and surrender their passport as specified in the notice by the FBOA.

Although in general one banning order equates to one individual, the number of extant 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 banning order. Furthermore, a banned individual may follow more than one football club so their football banning order would appear more than once in the figures; however, the number that this applies to is likely to be small.

There is not necessarily a correlation between the number of arrests and the number of new banning orders in a 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 football banning order 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 or even longer.

5.3 Data coverage

Statistics on banning orders were taken from the Football Banning Order Authority's (FBOA, part of Home Office United Kingdom Football Policing Unit, UKFPU) records.

The total banning orders dates are as at: 29 November 2011; 9 November 2012; 20 September 2013; 3 September 2014; 8 September 2015; 1 August 2016; 7 August 2017 and 1 August 2018.

Caution should be taken when making season-on-season comparisons as the date the new banning orders data were extracted varied from year to year

Statistics on football-related arrests are submitted by the 43 police forces in England and Wales, and BTP to the UKFPU. Football-related arrests are those to which Schedule 1 of the [Football Spectators Act 1989 \(as amended\)](#) applies. 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).

Statistics on football-related arrests cover the 2017 to 2018 season (1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, with the exception of any World Cup 2018 matches) and information on all banning orders in force is reported as at 1 August 2018 (data reference dates for new banning orders issued in the 2017 to 2018 season was 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018).

5.4 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 are submitted to the FBOA, as enforcing authority, 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 2017 to 2018 season do not exceed the total number of banning orders as at 1 August 2018.

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.

5.5 Comparability with previous year's figures

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)²
- 2016 to 2017 (data reference dates: 01/08/2016 to 31/07/2017)
- 2017 to 2018 (data reference dates: 01/08/2017 to 31/07/2018)

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

² The dates of extraction for this season have been adjusted to standardise data reference dates for future publications.

5.6 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.

Unless specified within the notes for the table, percentages in the release are rounded to the nearest per cent using the round-half-away-from-zero method. For example, 23.5 per cent will be rounded to 24 per cent, and -23.5 per cent will be rounded to -24 per cent.

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.

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/statistics>

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