



Ministry of
JUSTICE



STATISTICAL BULLETIN

Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics

England and Wales 2006

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Office for Criminal Justice Reform

April 2008

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INTRODUCTION

1. This bulletin contains statistics on motoring offences and breath tests dealt with by the police in England and Wales in 2006 and earlier years. The bulletin also includes statistics on penalty charge notices issued by local authority parking attendants from 1996 - 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 2006, Supplementary tables" - see note 23.

MOTORING OFFENCES

MAIN POINTS

- The number of motoring offences dealt with by official police action or penalty charge notice in 2006 was 12.7 million, down three per cent on 2005 (paragraph 2).
- The number of offences dealt with by motoring fixed penalty notices issued by the police (including traffic wardens) in 2006 was 3.0 million, down seven per cent on 2005. In addition 7.8 million penalty charge notices were issued by local authority parking attendants in 2006. (paragraph 2).
- Speed limit offences comprised nearly 2.0 million offences, or 40 per cent of all motoring offences dealt with by the police (paragraph 6).
- 164,900 fixed penalty notices were issued for the offence of using a hand held mobile phone while driving, up 38,100 or 30 per cent on the 2005 total (paragraph 16).
- The proportion of disqualifications 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 70 per cent in 2006 (paragraph 32).
- Cameras provided evidence for 1.86 million offences dealt with in 2006. Overall cameras provided evidence for 89 per cent of speeding offences dealt with (paragraph 33).

Figure 1 Motoring offences dealt with by official action

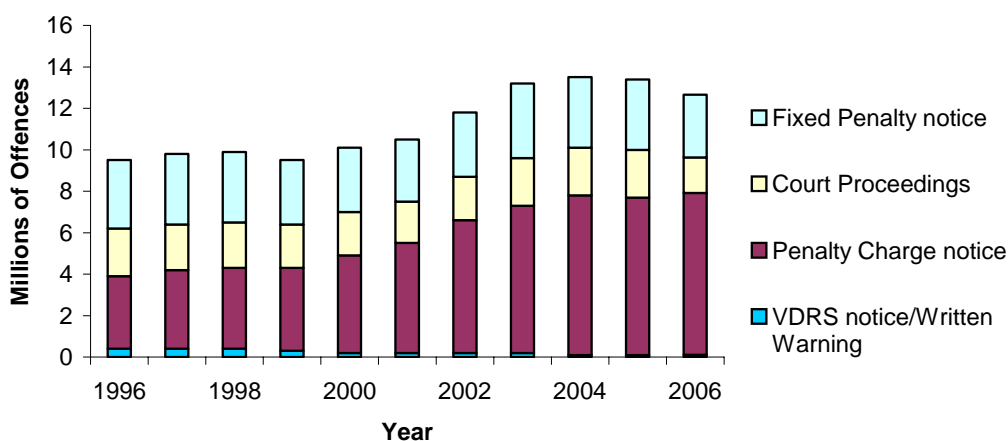


Table A Offences relating to motor vehicles: summary of action taken⁽¹⁾

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		
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	13.2	28.2
2004	0.1	0.1	3.4	7.7	2.3	13.5	29.0
2005	0.0	0.1	3.3	7.6	2.0	13.1	29.7
2006	0.0	0.1	3.0	7.8 ⁽⁴⁾	1.7	12.7	30.0

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

(2) Vehicle defect rectification scheme.

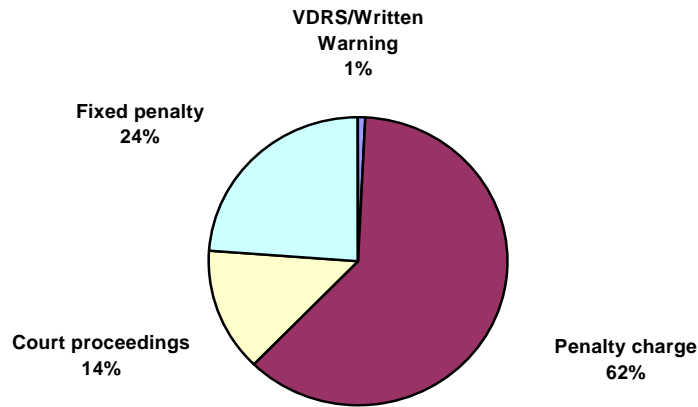
(3) Revised. See Note 9.

(4) Includes 2005 figures for the London Boroughs of Croydon and Tower Hamlets. See Note 8.

2. The total number of motoring offences dealt with by the police and parking attendants in England and Wales during 2006 was 12.7 million, a decrease of 387,400 (three per cent) on the final 2005 figure of 13.1 million. In 2006 7.8 million (62 per cent) were penalty charge notices issued by local authority parking attendants, 169,600 higher than the figure of 7.6 million for 2005. A few more local authorities (nine) began to use these powers in 2006 (see note 13(k)(iii)). A further 3.0 million of the offences (24 per cent) were dealt with by fixed penalty notices issued by the police (including traffic wardens), down seven per cent on the 2005 total of 3.3 million. In addition 1.7 million offences (14 per cent) were dealt with by court proceedings (see note 7), down 15 per cent on 2005. The remaining offences were dealt with either by written warnings (38,900) down 18 per cent on 2005, or vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS) notices complied with (76,000), down 14 per cent on 2005.

3. The 12.7 million motoring offences dealt with during 2006 represents 422 offences per thousand vehicles licensed in 2006, compared with 401 per thousand in 1996. The 2006 rate of 422 is 19 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, 2006



4. For motoring offences dealt with by police action (excluding penalty charge notices) Table 10 shows figures by police force for 2006. The proportion of offences dealt with by court proceedings (35 per cent for England and Wales) varies between forces, from Sussex who used court proceedings for 21 per cent of offences dealt with to West Midlands who used court proceedings for 56 per cent of offences. 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 2006 the largest total of 8.3 million offences dealt with was for the offence group **obstruction, waiting and parking offences**. Of these, 502,000 were dealt with by official police action, forming the third largest proportion of motoring offences (down 15 per cent on the 2005 figure of 587,300) dealt with by the police (including traffic wardens). The other 7.8 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 18 and 19.

6. The largest offence group dealt with by police action in 2006 was for **speed limit offences** comprising 2.0 million offences, or 40 per cent of all the offences they dealt with.

Figure 3 Offences dealt with by the police, change between 2005 and 2006

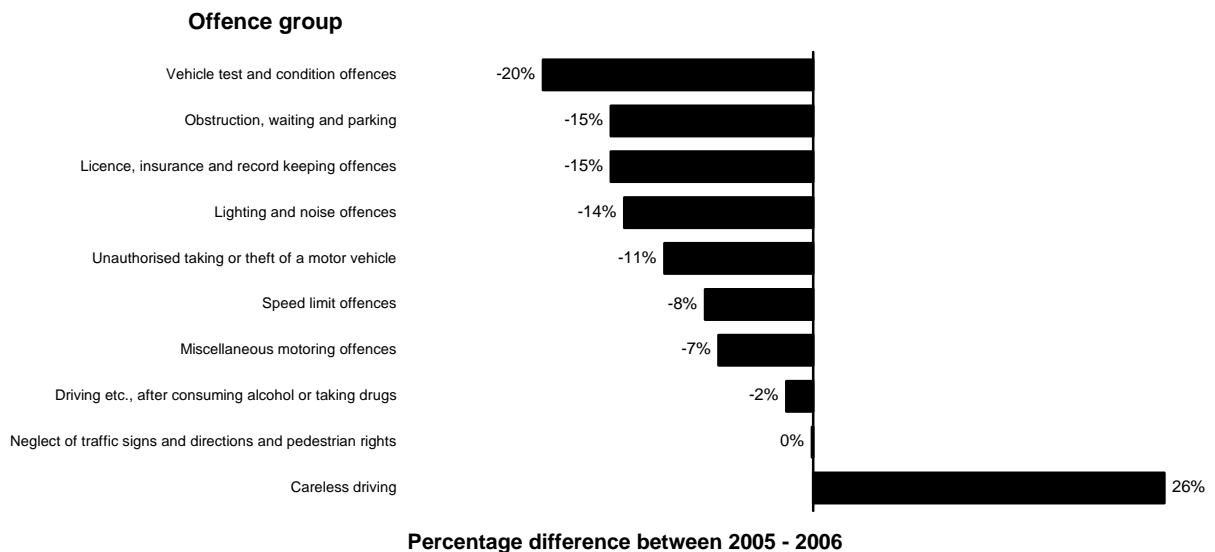


Table B Motoring Offences (proportionally) dealt with by official action⁽¹⁾ by offence group

England and Wales 2005 & 2006										Percentages	
Offence group	Court Proceedings ⁽²⁾		Written Warnings		VDRS Notice		Fixed penalty / Penalty charge notices issued ⁽³⁾		Total (thousands = 100%)		
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	
Causing death or bodily harm	99	99	1 ⁽⁴⁾	1 ⁽⁴⁾	*	*	*	*	0.5	0.5	
Dangerous driving	99	99	1	1	*	*	*	*	8.5	7.4	
Driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	100	100	0	0	*	*	*	*	103.5	101.4	
Careless driving	22	16	3	2	*	*	75	81	186.0	233.6	
Accident offences	94	94	6	6	*	*	*	*	26.9	25.2	
Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	84	82	16 ⁽⁴⁾	18 ⁽⁴⁾	*	*	*	*	34.1	30.5	
Licence, insurance & record keeping offences	93	91	1	1	*	*	7	9	1,195.7	1,016.4	
Vehicle test offences	98	97	2	2	*	*	1	1	284.6	214.2	
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	21	19	1	1	68	64	11	16	130.8	118.1	
Speed limit offences	9	9	0	0	*	*	91	91	2,118.9	1,959.5	
Neglect of traffic signs & directions & pedestrian rights	17	17	1	1	*	*	82	82	253.6	253.2	
Obstruction, waiting & parking offences	0	0	0	0	*	*	100	100	8,216.9	8,301.2 ⁽⁵⁾	
Lighting & noise offences	39	35	8	6	*	*	53	59	36.7	31.7	
Load Offences	69	75	3	2	*	*	28	23	11.5	9.4	
Offences peculiar to motor cycles	62	64	5	5	*	*	33	31	6.0	5.4	
Miscellaneous	34	33	1	1	*	*	64	66	375.8	348.5	
Total	16	14	0	0	1	1	83	86	12,989.9	12,656.3	

(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) Includes 2005 figures for the London Boroughs of Croydon and Tower Hamlets. See Note 8.

7. Between 2005 and 2006, the number of offences dealt with by the police increased in only one of the 15 offence groups (Table 2). Figure 3 shows the changes in the largest groups for 2005 and 2006. The increase occurred for **careless driving offences** which were up 26 per cent. Similarly between 2004 and 2005 there was an increase of 35 per cent for this offence. This reflects the large number of police force areas taking action against drivers who used a hand held mobile phone while driving. The offence, introduced from 1 December 2003, shows a national total of 168,500 offences in 2006.

8. Table 2 contains figures from 1951 to examine longer term trends. With the exception of **lighting and noise offences** the numbers in 2006 are all larger (mostly considerably so) than in 1951, as would be expected from the large increase in licensed vehicles over this period. These offences were seven times more often subject to police action in 1971 and 1981 than in 2006. 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 30,500 in 2006, 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 9,400 in 2006.

10. **Offences peculiar to motor cycles** decreased by nine per cent to 5,400 from 6,000 in 2005. This follows an increase of 27 per cent between 2004 and 2005.

11. The number of **miscellaneous motoring offences** dealt with was lower in 2006 at 348,500, a decrease of seven per cent from 375,800 in 2005. The 2005 figure was the highest in any other year shown in Table 2. Seat belt offences

make up two-thirds of this offence group in 2006 and showed a decrease of five per cent to 231,800 from 2005. Any longer term comparisons 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 14 per cent of offences were dealt with by court proceedings during 2006 (a two percentage point decrease on 2005), whilst 86 per cent were dealt with by fixed penalty notices or penalty charge notices (a three percentage point increase on 2005). 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**. 64 per cent of these offences were dealt with in 2006 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 2006 (the same as in 2005). Fixed penalty notices dealt with 82 per cent of offences of **neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights** (again the same as in 2005). The detailed figures from which Table B is derived are included in Table 1 of the Supplementary tables (see note 23).

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 has dropped rapidly to 38,900 in 2006 although there was a slight upturn in 2004 when 58,900 were issued. Table B shows that **lighting and noise offences, accident offences** and **offences peculiar to motor cycles**, were more likely than other traffic offences to be dealt with by written warning. In contrast, Table 3 shows the numbers of written warnings (including formal cautions) issued and it can be seen that they were most frequently used for **licence, insurance and record keeping offences** (7,000 or 18 per cent of written warnings), **dangerous, careless or drunken driving etc.** (5,500), **speed limit offences** (5,400) and **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** (5,400) (all three offence groups at 14 per cent of written warnings respectively).

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 and then falling to 101,900 in 2006. 75 per cent (76,000) of VDRS notices were complied with in 2006, no difference in percentage terms on 2005. Notices not complied with are liable to lead to further action (e.g. court proceedings).

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

15. The total number of fixed penalty notices issued by the police (including traffic wardens) fell from 3.4 million in 1996 to 2.9 million in 2001 before rising to 3.5 million in 2003 and then decreasing to 3.0 million in 2006. Despite the fall in 2006 increases were observed for four out of eleven offence groups shown in Table 5: **Careless driving offences** (excluding use of hand held mobile phone while driving) were up from 12,600 to 25,300 (up 101 per cent), **Vehicle test and condition offences** (up 31 per cent), **offences of 'use of hand held mobile phone while driving'** (up 30 per cent) and **Licence, insurance and record keeping offences** (up 10 per cent).

16. The largest increase of 38,100 (up 30 per cent) was for offences of '**use of hand held mobile phone while driving**', where 164,900 fixed penalty notices were issued in 2006.

17. The largest decrease of 146,000 (down eight per cent) was for '**Speed limit offences**'. This offence group in 2006 made up 59 per cent of total fixed penalty notices issued (down one percentage point on 2005).

18. **Obstruction, waiting and parking offences** were dealt with both by fixed penalty notices and penalty charge notices. There were 489,900 fixed penalty notices issued by the police in 2006, 83,500 or 15 per cent fewer than in 2005. The fall can be attributed mainly to more local authorities issuing penalty charge notices. An estimated 7.8 million breaches of parking regulations in 2006 were dealt with by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities (169,600 more than in 2005). This method was first used in 1994 and is provided for under the 1991 Road Traffic Act [see also note 13(k) (iii)].

19. Table C shows that the use of fixed penalties for **obstruction, waiting and parking offences** in London had been, by 2006, 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 163,000 (down 23 per cent) in 2004, 28,000 in 2005 (down 83 per cent) and 25,200 in 2006 (down 10 per cent). The detailed penalty charge notices figures, for 1999 to 2006, 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), 22(b), 22(c) and 22(d) of the Supplementary tables (see note 23). The police have the power to issue non-motoring fixed penalty notices for twenty-five disorder offences under section 1 to 11 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Statistics on these orders (Penalty Notices for Disorder) are not covered in this publication.

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

England and Wales							Thousands
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fixed penalty notices							
Metropolitan & City of London Police	197	142	143	210	163	28	25
Other police forces	1,398	1,183	1,022	834 ⁽²⁾	720	546	465
Total	1,595	1,325	1,165	1,044 ⁽²⁾	883	573	490
Penalty charge notices							
London	4,021	4,222	4,799	5,053	5,392	5,060	5,168 ⁽¹⁾
Other local authorities ⁽³⁾	634	1,081	1,614	2,070	2,261	2,570	2,631
Total	4,655	5,303	6,413	7,123	7,653	7,630	7,799 ⁽¹⁾
Total fixed penalties & penalty charge notices	6,251	6,628	7,578	8,167 ⁽²⁾	8,536	8,203	8,289 ⁽¹⁾

(1) Includes 2005 figures for the London Boroughs of Croydon and Tower Hamlets. See note 8.

(2) Revised. See Note 9.

(3) From 1999 to 2002 England only.

20. A final analysis of results of fixed penalty notices issued in 2006 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 90 per cent of the fixed penalty notices issued by the police in 2006 were paid and a fine was automatically registered at court for a further seven per cent. These rates show a small but steady increase in the number of fixed penalties paid since 1996 when the figure was 76 per cent. Fixed penalties are more likely to be paid if the offence is endorsable. In 2006 it is estimated that 97 per cent of fixed penalty notices issued for endorsable offences were paid without further enforcement, compared with 76 per cent (non-endorsable, driver present) and 72 per cent (non-endorsable, driver absent).

21. Of the total number of penalty charge notices dealt with in 2006, 51 per cent were paid within 14 days and a further 13 per cent were paid after 14 days but before enforcement. This compares with 53 per cent and 12 per cent respectively in 2005. In London in 2006, 50 per cent were paid within 14 days and a further 13 per cent were paid after 14 days but before enforcement. This compares with 53 per cent and 12 per cent in 2005.

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

22. The number of proceedings at magistrates' courts for offences relating to motor vehicles fell by 15 per cent between 2005 and 2006 to 1.7 million. Proceedings were most often taken for offences within the **licence, insurance and record keeping offences** category (including offences of 'using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks' and 'motor vehicle licence obscured or not affixed'), amounting to 921,000 or 59 per cent of offences in 2006, compared to 1.1 million in 2005.

23. **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**, for the first time since 2002, have seen a drop in the number of prosecutions, from 192,200 in 2005 to 180,600 in 2006, down six 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) in contrast showed a rise of two per cent from 42,900 in 2005 to 43,900 in 2006 (see also paragraph 33).

24. 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 2006' ⁽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⁾.

25. 71 per cent of all court proceedings for motoring offences resulted in findings of guilt in 2006, up two percentage points on 2005. In total there were 1.23 million findings of guilt in 2006, compared to 1.39 million in 2005.

26. Table 12 shows that in 2006 nearly nine in ten of those found guilty of motoring offences were male. The highest percentage of males were recorded for **offences peculiar to motor cycles** (98 per cent), **load offences** (97 per cent), **dangerous driving** (96 per cent) and **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** (95 per cent). The highest percentages of females were recorded for **obstruction, waiting and parking offences** (25 per cent), **speed limit offences** (19 per cent) and **miscellaneous motoring offences** (18 per cent). Disproportionate numbers of offenders were aged under 21 for **offences peculiar to motor cycles** (72 per cent), which include driving or riding on a motor cycle without wearing protective headgear and unlawful pillion riding, and offences of **unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle** (63 per cent).

27. In 2006, around 87 per cent of sentences or orders imposed at magistrates' courts were fines (Table 13). By contrast, immediate 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 (20,200) than the Crown Court (5,800). A substantial proportion of proceedings (19 per cent in 2006) result in the offence being 'not separately dealt with', because a sentence or order has been imposed for another offence.

28. The average fine imposed at magistrates' courts during 2006 was £142, an increase of £7 on 2005 (Table 14). However when inflation is taken into account, at 1996 prices, there was an increase in real terms from £107 in 2005 to £109 for the year 2006. The average fines, in 2006, varied from £121 for **speed limit offences** to £375 for **dangerous driving**.

29. Table 15 shows that just over 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** – 92 per cent, up four per cent from 2005. In addition 41 per cent of convictions for **dangerous driving** attracted sentences of immediate custody, down three percentage points on 2005. Similarly, custodial sentences given on conviction for **driving while disqualified** also fell, from 39 per cent in 2005 to 36 per cent in 2006.

DISQUALIFICATIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS (Tables 16 and 17)

30. During 2006, there were 166,400 disqualifications for specific motoring offences in England and Wales, down 9,600 on 2005. A further 26,400 persons were disqualified under the penalty points or 'totting up' system, a decrease of 2,300 compared with 2005. In 2006 87,200 persons were disqualified for **driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs**, a slight increase (300) on the 2005 total. The number of disqualifications for this offence peaked at 103,000 in 1989 and steadily declined until 1996, since then it has been relatively stable.

31. The number of endorsements has been rising steadily since 1996, peaking at 2,801,000 in 2004 before slightly falling to 2,762,000 in 2005 (down one per cent) and again falling in 2006 to 2,564,000 (down seven per cent.).

32. 45 per cent of disqualifications in 2006 were for more than one year and 70 per cent of these were 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)

33. In 2006 cameras of all types provided evidence for 1.86 million motoring offences, a fall of seven per cent on the 2005 figure. In 2006, 93 per cent of offences were **speeding offences**, with the remainder being **traffic light offences**. Overall in 2006, camera devices were used to provide evidence in 89 per cent of cases where the police took official action for **speeding offences** and in 51 per cent cases of **neglect of traffic signs and directions and pedestrian rights**, (which includes traffic light offences). The majority of these offences (94 per cent) were dealt with by fixed penalty.

34. The national safety camera funding scheme, allowed fixed penalty income from speeding and red traffic light offences detected by cameras within the scheme to be used to meet the costs of operating the cameras. The scheme was launched nationally in August 2001. This followed a successful pilot of the scheme in seven police force areas in England and Wales in April 2000. All forces in England and Wales participated in the programme during 2006 with the exception of Durham and North Yorkshire [see also note 13(ii)]. On 15 December 2005 the Secretary of State for Transport announced the ending of the National Safety Camera Programme and netting off funding arrangement for cameras in England and Wales, with effect from March 2007. Camera funding, activities and partnerships were integrated into the wider road safety delivery process from 1 April 2007. The move gives local authorities, the police and other local partners responsibility for the future deployment and operation of cameras. For guidance and best practice advice on the deployment of speed cameras from 1 April 2007 please see the Department for Transport's Circular 1/07 – Use of Speed and Red-Light Cameras for Traffic Enforcement: Guidance on Deployment, Visibility And Signing.

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

England and Wales	Number of offences						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 ⁽⁶⁾
Speeding offences							
Fixed penalty ⁽²⁾	599,200 ⁽³⁾	877,500	1,135,400	1,670,000 ⁽⁵⁾	1,786,600	1,763,500	1,633,500
Prosecutions	109,200	137,100	100,100 ⁽⁴⁾	127,400	127,100	109,300	101,400
Total	699,400 ⁽³⁾	1,014,600	1,235,500 ⁽⁴⁾	1,797,400 ⁽⁵⁾	1,913,700	1,872,900	1,735,000
Traffic light offences							
Fixed penalty ⁽²⁾	52,200	45,500	70,900	115,000	113,200	123,100	118,900
Prosecutions	15,900	11,100	13,200 ⁽⁴⁾	10,600	11,600	5,700	10,000
Total	68,100	56,600	84,100 ⁽⁴⁾	125,600	124,700	128,800	128,800
All offences							
Fixed penalty ⁽²⁾	642,400 ⁽³⁾	923,000	1,206,300	1,784,500 ⁽⁵⁾	1,899,800	1,886,700	1,752,400
Prosecutions	125,700	148,200	113,400 ⁽⁴⁾	138,000	138,700	115,000	111,400
Total	768,100 ⁽³⁾	1,071,200	1,319,700 ⁽⁴⁾	1,922,500 ⁽⁵⁾	2,038,500	2,001,700	1,863,800

(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.

(6) Figures have been revised post publication (April 2008).

BREATH TESTS

MAIN POINTS

- 601,600 screening breath tests were carried out during 2006, one per cent less than in 2005 (paragraph 35).
- The number of positive or refused tests in 2006 rose by one per cent from 104,300 in 2005 to 105,700 in 2006 (paragraph 36).
- The proportion of tests positive or refused in 2006 was 18 per cent, one percentage point higher than in 2005.

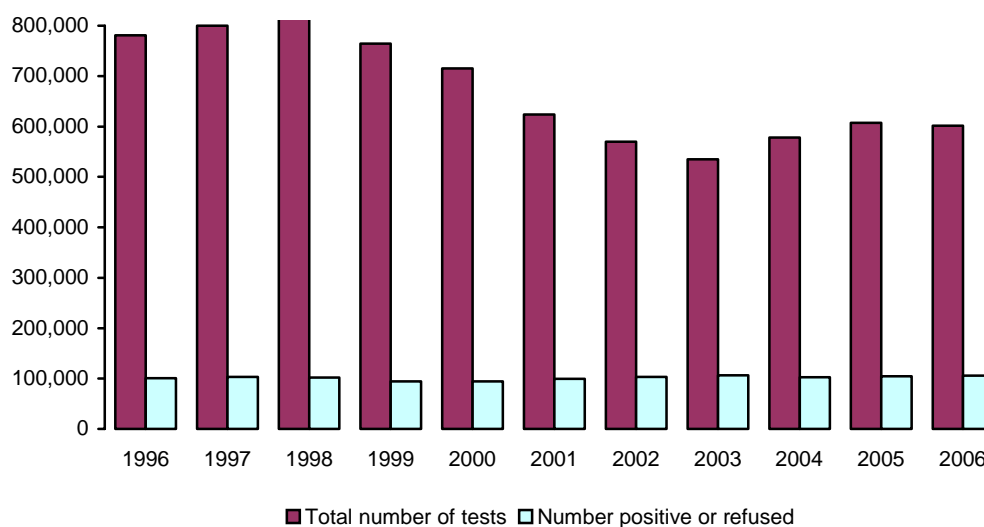
SCREENING BREATH TESTS (Table E, Table 18 and Figure 4)

England and Wales	Thousands and percentage changes						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 ⁽¹⁾	2005	2006
Total number of tests	714.8	623.9	570.2	534.3	578.0	607.4	601.6
<i>Percentage (%) change on previous year</i>	- 6.5	-12.7	-8.6	-6.3	+8.2	+5.1	-0.9
Of which positive/refused	94.6	99.5	103.5	106.3	103.0	104.3	105.7
<i>Percentage (%) change on previous year</i>	+ 0.5	+ 5.2	+4.0	+2.7	-3.1	+1.3	+1.4

(1) Revised data. See Note 17.

35. During 2006, 601,600 screening breath tests were carried out by police officers. This is a decrease of one per cent on the total of 607,400 recorded during 2005.

Figure 4 Screening breath tests by outcome



36. The number of positive or refused tests was 105,700 in 2006, a rise of one per cent from 2005 (104,300). The proportion of tests positive or refused in 2006 was, at 18 per cent, one percentage point higher than in 2005 (17 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.

37. Department for Transport figures ⁽²⁾ 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 further decreases of eight per cent in 2004 to 2,920 and ten per cent in 2005 to 2,640. Estimates for 2006 show the downward trend continuing with a decrease of five per cent to 2,500.

SEASONAL VARIATION (Tables 19 and 20)

38. In 2006, 20 per cent of all screening tests were conducted during December, which coincides with the regular Christmas campaign against drinking and driving. The number of screening tests carried out during December was nearly three times more than the average number carried out in other months. The number of positive or refused tests at 9,900 was also the highest recorded. However the proportion of screening tests which, were positive or refused during December was eight per cent, which is less than half the proportion of tests positive or refused in the other months.

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

39. Police force areas varied widely in the number of tests carried out in 2006 per 100,000 population, from 240 in West Midlands to 3,600 in Cheshire. Figure 5 illustrates the distribution across England and Wales. Forces with the highest number of tests per 100,000 population were Cheshire, North Wales, Cumbria and Cleveland. The proportion of tests, which are positive or refused, also varied by force, from six per cent in Cheshire, Cumbria and North Wales to 75 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 2006. Forces with the highest rates of positive tests per 100,000 population were West Yorkshire, Thames Valley, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Metropolitan (including City of London).

(1) See Ministry of Justice Statistical Bulletin 'Criminal statistics, England and Wales 2006'.

(2) See DfT 'Road Casualties Great Britain: 2006 - Annual Report' (The Stationery Office September 2007).

Figure 5 Total tests per 100,000 population by police force area 2006

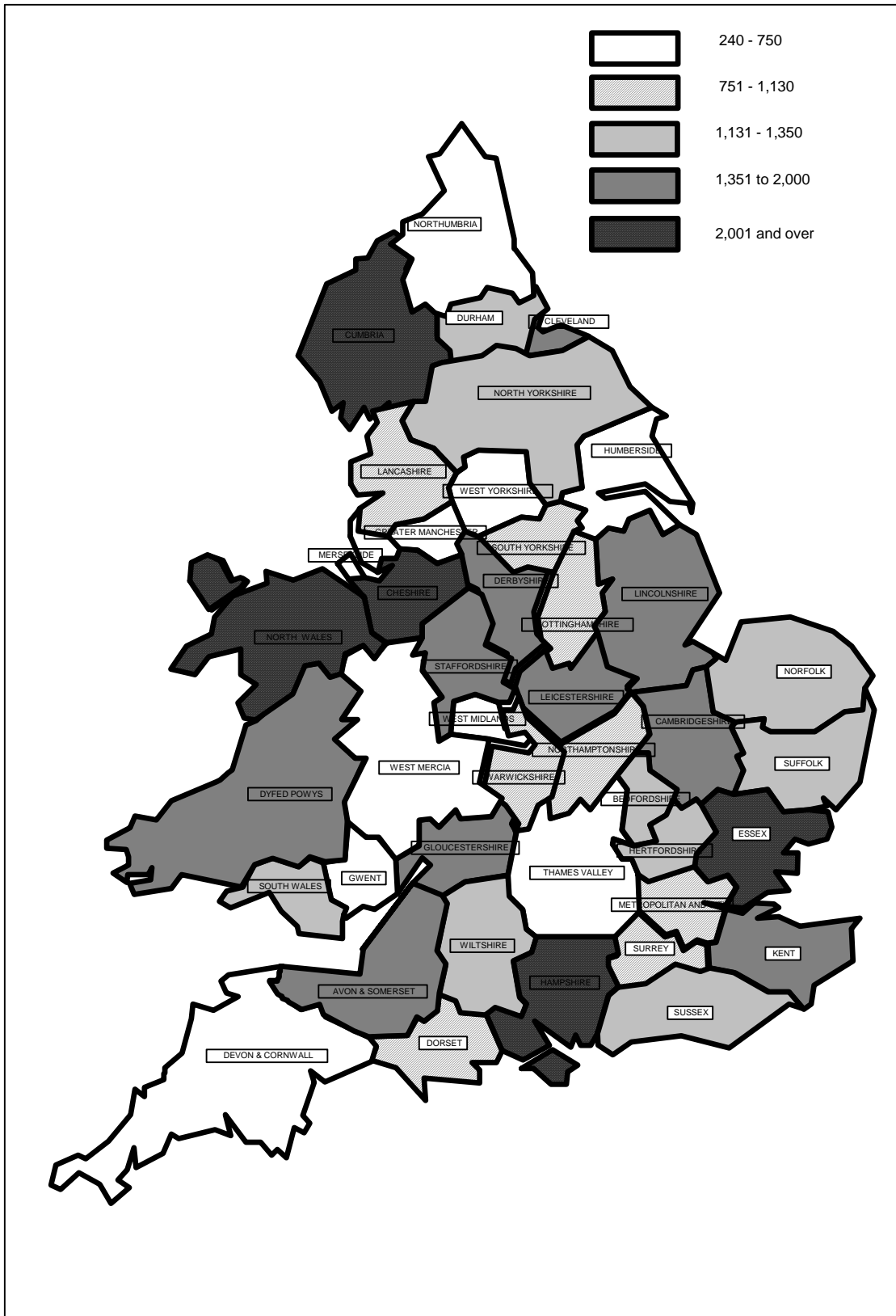


Figure 6 Positive/refused tests per 100,000 population by police force 2006

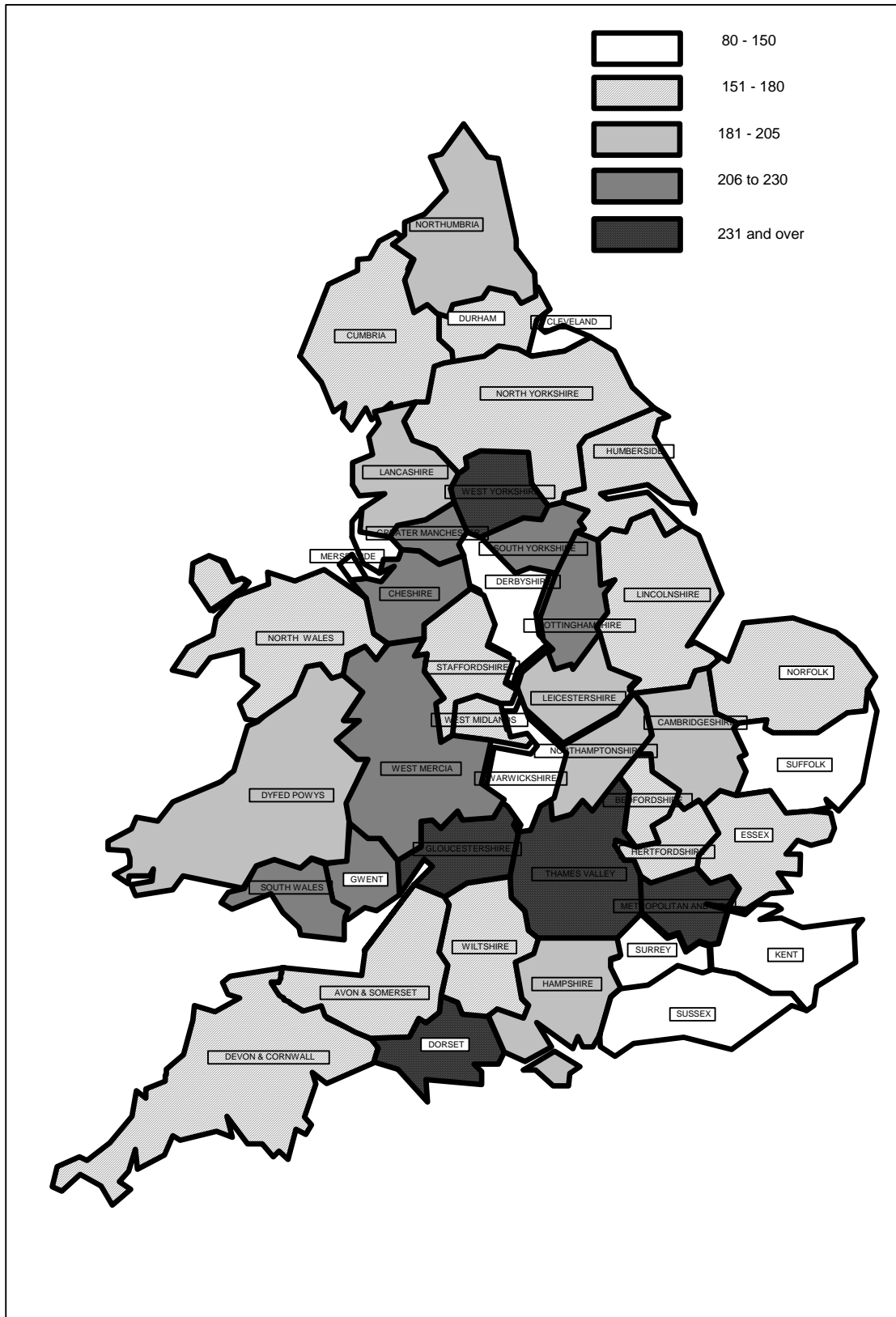


Table 1 Summary of action taken for offences relating to motor vehicles: written warnings, vehicle defect rectification scheme, fixed penalty notices, penalty charge notices and court proceedings

England and Wales	Thousands of offences													
	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Type of action :														
Written warnings issued	151	274	238	326	231	161	127	109	87	59	57	59	47	39
Vehicle defect rectification scheme (VDRS) notices complied with ⁽¹⁾	*	*	*	*	196	192	168	127	102	91	90	96	89	76
Fixed penalty not paid, no further action taken ⁽¹⁾	*	1,544	498	240	235	208	148	116	98	95	72	55 ⁽³⁾
Fixed penalty paid	*	..	..	2,593	4,014	2,691	2,427 ⁽²⁾	2,391 ⁽²⁾	2,366 ⁽²⁾	2,416	3,051	2,969	2,961	2,725 ⁽³⁾
Fine registration certificate	*	*	*	*	1,134	472	407	371	369	322	346	301	243	260 ⁽³⁾
Total dealt with by fixed penalty notice/fine registration	*	102	102	4,137	5,647	3,403	3,069 ⁽²⁾	2,969 ⁽²⁾	2,882 ⁽²⁾	2,853	3,495	3,364	3,275	3,040 ⁽³⁾
Penalty charge notices issued ⁽⁴⁾	*	*	*	*	*	3,872	3,956	4,655	5,303	6,413	7,123	7,653	7,630	7,799 ⁽⁵⁾
Magistrates' court proceedings: ⁽⁶⁾⁽⁷⁾														
Proceedings discontinued, charges withdrawn or dismissed, etc	18	35	113	331	741	735	710	695	695	739	770	742	624	489
Findings of guilt after summary trial	366	922	1,553	2,086	1,527	1,454	1,407	1,356	1,317	1,372	1,538	1,538	1,383	1,218
Crown Court trial proceedings:														
Acquittals or not tried	-	1	3	4	5	3	3	3	3 ⁽⁸⁾	3	4	3	2	2
Findings of guilt	-	2	9	16	19	10	8	8	9 ⁽⁸⁾	11	11	11	10	9
Total dealt with by court proceedings	385	959	1,679	2,437	2,294	2,203	2,128	2,063	2,024 ⁽⁸⁾	2,124	2,324	2,294	2,019	1,718
Total dealt with by cautions, VDRS, fixed penalties, penalty charge notices or court proceedings	536	1,335	3,907	6,900	8,368	9,831	9,448 ⁽²⁾	9,923 ⁽²⁾	10,398 ⁽²⁾	11,541	13,088	13,467	13,060	12,672 ⁽⁵⁾
Vehicles currently licensed (millions) ⁽⁹⁾	4.2 ⁽¹⁰⁾	9.0 ⁽¹⁰⁾	14.0 ⁽¹⁰⁾	15.3 ⁽¹⁰⁾	22.7	25.5	26.2	26.2	27.0	27.7	28.2	29.0	29.7	30.0

(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 2006; the figures shown are estimates.

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

(5) Includes 2005 figures for the London Boroughs of Croydon and Tower Hamlets. See Note 8.

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

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

(8) Revised. See Note 6.

(10) 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	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1	Causing death or bodily harm	0.0	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.5	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	9.5	9.2	9.6	10.7	11.4	10.3	8.5	7.4
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	3.4	7.5	46.0	82.4	119.1	99.7	96.3	96.1	102.1	105.7	107.2	103.5	101.4
4	Careless driving ⁽⁴⁾	29.1	84.6	139.4	180.5	128.8	97.7	94.8	91.7	83.9	86.4 ⁽⁵⁾	137.8 ⁽⁵⁾	185.9	233.6
5	Accident offences	8.6	19.9	30.9	57.5	53.9	29.9	29.0	30.4	30.1	31.1	29.3	26.9	25.2
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	12.3	32.4	52.6	75.9	95.1	56.7	50.7	51.0	52.1	48.7	40.4	34.0	30.5
7.9-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	110.9	330.4	650.7	1,057.6	1,267.0	1,227.5	1,201.2	1,177.4	1,247.7	1,398.6 ⁽⁵⁾	1,387.2	1,195.7	1,016.4
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	36.5	57.6	315.4	408.0	624.7	603.7	538.8	496.2	502.7	515.8	493.2	415.3	332.3
16	Speed limit offences	83.3	147.4	272.1	343.6	637.0	995.3 ⁽⁵⁾	1,121.1 ⁽⁵⁾	1,318.8 ⁽⁵⁾	1,557.9 ⁽⁵⁾	2,066.3 ⁵	2,104.8	2,118.8	1,959.5
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	60.9	170.4	132.5	241.1	320.7	249.6 ⁽⁵⁾	234.9 ⁽⁵⁾	220.7 ⁽⁵⁾	220.1 ⁽⁵⁾	272.9 ⁽⁵⁾	267.3	253.6	253.2
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁶⁾	89.0	300.8	1,975.7	4,211.7	4,760.5	1,836.0	1,619.1	1,348.0	1,185.9	1,065.0 ⁽⁵⁾	900.7	587.3	502.0
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	66.9	115.6	229.8	227.7	88.1	68.9	55.6	45.6	43.7	41.9	42.3	36.7	31.7
23	Load offences	5.5	11.4	17.7	35.9	44.1	21.1	18.6	15.8	13.1	13.8	12.8	11.5	9.4
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	0.9	3.4	1.7	19.6	7.3	3.9	4.1	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.7	6.0	5.4
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽⁷⁾	23.7	41.8	31.5	131.0	237.8	258.1	223.1	227.7	220.4	267.0 ⁽⁵⁾	346.7	375.8	348.5
	Total	536.2	1,334.5	3,907.3	7,079.4	8,396.6	5,558.1 ⁽⁵⁾	5,296.9 ⁽⁵⁾	5,133.8 ⁽⁵⁾	5,274.6 ⁽⁵⁾	5,929.3 ⁽⁵⁾	5,885.1 ⁽⁵⁾	5,360.3	4,857.1

(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) Includes the following number of use of hand-held mobile phones while driving offences in 2006: 2,700 court proceedings, 164,900 fixed penalties and 900 written warnings.

(5) Revised. See Note 9.

(6) In addition, 7,799,191 penalty charge notices were issued in 2006 by local authorities for parking offences. See Notes 8 and 13(k)(iii).

(7) Includes the following number of seat belt offences in 2006: 5,700 court proceedings, 223,800 fixed penalties and 2,300 written warnings.

Table 3 Written warnings by offence group

England and Wales		Thousands of offences										
Offence group	Offence type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1-4	Dangerous, careless or drunken driving etc. ⁽¹⁾	21	23	18	15	11	10	8	8	6	6	6
5	Accident offences	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	1
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle ⁽¹⁾	8	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	6	5	5
7,9-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	41	36	31	26	23	19	14	13	13	9	7
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	34	34	27	20	16	14	9	9	8	5	4
16	Speed limit offences	27	35	28	22	24	17	7	6	8	7	5
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	13	16	11	8	7	4	3	3	3	3	2
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	4	4	4	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	2
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	14	17	15	11	7	5	4	4	3	3	2
23	Load offences	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	18	22	15	12	8	6	4	5	6	5	3
	Total	188	201	161	127	109	87	59	57	59	47	39
	Number of persons ⁽²⁾ (thousands)	143	157	135	106	92	75	52	50	48	41	32

(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	Notices complied with		
		No	%	
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	
2005	118	89	75	
2006	102	76	75	

(1) A notice may relate to several defects.

(2) Vehicle repaired or scrapped within specified period.

Table 5 Fixed penalty notices issued by type of offence

England and Wales		Thousands of notices										
Offence group	Offence type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
4(pt)	Careless driving offences (excluding use of hand-held mobile phone while driving)	10	14	20	27	32	35	33	35	17	13	25
4(pt)	Use of hand-held mobile phone while driving ⁽¹⁾	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2	74	127	165
7,9,10	Licence, insurance ⁽²⁾ and record keeping offences	48	47	50	68	49	50	50	68 ⁽³⁾	70	80	88
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	15	17	17	14	10	9	8	10	13	16	22
16	Speed limit offences	595	713	781	805 ⁽³⁾	942 ⁽³⁾	1,151 ⁽³⁾	1,407 ⁽³⁾	1,895 ⁽³⁾	1,924	1,920	1,773
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	216	224	219	195 ⁽³⁾	183 ⁽³⁾	175 ⁽³⁾	177 ⁽³⁾	227	220	208	207
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁴⁾	2,282	2,199	2,118	1,808	1,595	1,325	1,165	1,044 ⁽³⁾	883	573	490
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	21	26	30	28	23	20	21	20	23	19	19
23,24	Other offences ⁽⁵⁾	4	4	5	4	4	3	3	4	5	5	4
25(pt)	Miscellaneous motoring offences (excluding seat belt offences)	6	9	6	4	3	5	8	7	5	7	5
25(pt)	Seat belt offences	154	175	194	181	155	144	126	146	202	235	224
Total		3,352	3,428	3,440	3,134⁽³⁾	2,998⁽³⁾	2,918⁽³⁾	2,997⁽³⁾	3,457⁽³⁾	3,435	3,203	3,022

(1) Introduced as a specific offence as from 1 December 2003.

(2) As from 1 June 2003 the offence of having no insurance, contrary to s. 143 Road Traffic Act 1988 was added to the road traffic fixed penalty offence system

(3) Revised. See Note 9.

(4) In addition, 7.8m offences were dealt with in 2006 by penalty charge notices issued by local authorities. See notes 8 and 13(k)(iii).

(5) Includes Load offences and offences peculiar to motor cycles

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

Result	England and Wales										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 ⁽¹⁾
Penalty paid	76	77	78	79	80	82	84	87	88	90	90
No further action	8	8	7	8	7	5	4	3	3	2	2
Fine registered	15	14	14	13	12	13	11	10	9	7	7
Referred for court proceedings	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.9
Total notices dealt with ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	3,352	3,428	3,440	3,089 ⁽⁴⁾	2,984 ⁽⁴⁾	2,897 ⁽⁴⁾	2,866	3,506	3,377	3,281	3,040
(Thousands, = 100 %)											

(1) The analysis of results of fixed penalty notices is not yet complete for 2006. The percentages shown are estimates

(2) Between 1996 and 1998 total notices issued given as data by result was not sufficiently robust to show national figure.

(3) In addition, of the 7.8m penalty charge notices issued by local authorities for parking offences in 2006. See Tables 22 and 23 and Notes 8 and 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-endorsable				Driver absent ⁽²⁾			All notices		
	Metro-politan Police		Other forces		Metro-politan Police		Other forces		Metro-politan Police		Other forces	Metro-politan Police	Other forces	All forces
1996	92.6	91.7	91.9	91.5	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	98.8	98.2	98.2	73.9	73.9	73.9	63.8	72.2	70.6	79.1	89.0	87.9		
2005	99.2	98.5	98.5	74.0	76.5	76.3	63.7	72.5	72.2	91.2	90.2	90.2		
2006 ⁽³⁾	99.0	97.2	97.3	74.6	76.6	76.4	62.6	72.6	72.3	89.6	90.0	90.0		

(1) Includes 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 2006. The percentages shown are estimates.

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

England and Wales		Thousands of offences															
Offence group	Offence type	2002			2003			2004			2005			2006			
		1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	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	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
2	Dangerous driving	10.7	11.3	10.3	8.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	102.0	105.7	107.1	103.5	101.4	103.5	101.4	103.5	101.4	103.5	101.4	103.5	101.4	103.5	101.4	103.5
4(pt) ⁽²⁾	Careless driving	43.8	42.1	40.1	38.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3
5	Accident offences	28.4	29.5	27.8	25.3	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8	23.8
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	46.1	43.0	34.7	28.8	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1	25.1
[7, ⁽³⁾ 10(pt), 11, 12, 14]	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences ⁽¹⁾	1,183.1	1,088.9	860.9	713.5	566.8	566.8	566.8	566.8	566.8	566.8	566.8	566.8	566.8	566.8	566.8	566.8
13	Vehicle test offences ⁽¹⁾	356.2	372.1	344.7	278.0	207.5	207.5	207.5	207.5	207.5	207.5	207.5	207.5	207.5	207.5	207.5	207.5
25(pt) ⁽⁴⁾	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽¹⁾	77.1	104.5	128.4	123.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6
	Sub-total	1,847.9	1,797.7	1,554.5	1,319.8	1,078.4	1,078.4	1,078.4	1,078.4	1,078.4	1,078.4	1,078.4	1,078.4	1,078.4	1,078.4	1,078.4	1,078.4
Offences for which a fixed penalty notice can be given:⁽⁵⁾																	
4(pt) ⁽²⁾	Use of hand-held mobile phone whilst driving	*	0.0	0.8	2.1	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
9(pt) ⁽³⁾	Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	*	557.6	441.8	392.8	353.5	353.5	353.5	353.5	353.5	353.5	353.5	353.5	353.5	353.5	353.5	353.5
10(pt)	Motor vehicle licence obscured or not affixed	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition ⁽⁵⁾	37.8	34.6	31.8	26.9	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8
16	Speed limit offences ⁽⁵⁾	144.2	165.5	172.3	192.2	180.6	180.6	180.6	180.6	180.6	180.6	180.6	180.6	180.6	180.6	180.6	180.6
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights ⁽⁵⁾	40.0	42.8	44.6	42.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9	43.9
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁵⁾	19.4	19.9	15.4	12.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
21,22	Lighting and noise offences ⁽⁵⁾	19.4	17.8	15.9	14.3	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1
23	Load offences ⁽⁵⁾	10.6	11.0	9.4	7.9	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles ⁽⁵⁾	2.4	2.5	2.7	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
25(pt)	Seat belt offences	4.7	5.0	5.4	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7
	Sub-total	279.2	527.8	741.1	701.4	641.5	641.5	641.5	641.5	641.5	641.5	641.5	641.5	641.5	641.5	641.5	641.5
	Total	2,127.0	2,325.6	2,295.6	2,021.1	1,719.9	1,719.9	1,719.9	1,719.9	1,719.9	1,719.9	1,719.9	1,719.9	1,719.9	1,719.9	1,719.9	1,719.9

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

(2) As from 1 December 2003 the offences of use of a hand held mobile phone whilst driving was added to the road traffic fixed penalty system

(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 9 Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for summary motoring offences⁽¹⁾

England and Wales		Thousands of defendants												
Offence group	Offence type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2005				2006			
		1st qtr	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	4th qtr	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:⁽²⁾														
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	87.5	90.0	92.3	89.9	88.7	23.1	22.6	22.2	22.0	23.4	22.0	21.7	21.6
4(pt) ⁽³⁾	Careless driving	29.3	27.2	27.1	25.5	23.7	6.9	6.8	6.0	5.8	6.6	5.8	5.7	5.8
5	Accident offences	8.7	9.1	9.3	8.6	8.5	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0
[7,9 ⁽⁴⁾ ,10(pt),11,12]	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences ⁽²⁾	355.2	246.2	113.5	91.8	80.4	24.5	24.1	22.7	20.5	22.4	19.8	19.8	18.4
13	Vehicle test offences ⁽²⁾	30.8	41.9	39.0	32.2	25.0	8.9	8.6	7.8	6.9	7.8	6.7	5.8	4.6
25(pt) ⁽⁵⁾	Miscellaneous motoring offences ⁽²⁾	69.4	82.7	108.3	101.0	75.0	26.0	27.4	25.7	21.9	21.8	18.6	17.9	16.6
	Sub-total	580.9	497.1	389.5	349.0	301.3	91.6	91.7	86.5	79.2	84.0	75.2	73.1	68.9
Offences for which a fixed penalty notice can be given:⁽⁶⁾														
4(pt) ⁽³⁾	Use of hand-held mobile phone whilst driving	*	-	0.5	1.2	1.5	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
9(pt) ⁽⁴⁾	Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	*	140.9	283.1	256.0	240.0	67.0	67.0	63.7	58.3	64.8	59.3	60.2	55.6
10(pt)	Motor vehicle licence obscured or not affixed	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
15	Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition ⁽⁶⁾	12.5	11.7	11.6	10.2	8.9	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2
16	Speed limit offences ⁽⁶⁾	132.4	148.9	161.7	168.4	160.1	40.5	43.0	43.3	41.5	44.6	38.1	37.7	39.7
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights ⁽⁶⁾	28.9	27.9	30.2	27.6	29.7	7.2	6.8	6.8	6.8	7.8	7.4	6.8	7.7
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences ⁽⁶⁾	17.6	17.7	14.7	11.0	9.1	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.1	1.8
21,22	Lighting and noise offences ⁽⁶⁾	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.6	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.7
23	Load offences ⁽⁶⁾	7.4	7.5	6.6	5.2	5.0	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.1
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles ⁽⁶⁾	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
25(pt)	Seat belt offences	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
	Sub-total	204.9	360.5	514.5	485.6	459.8	123.4	125.5	122.5	114.3	125.5	112.6	112.2	109.6
	Total	785.8	857.6	904.0	834.7	834.7	215.0	217.2	209.0	193.5	209.5	187.8	185.2	178.5

(1) This table breaks down the figures published in Table 2.1 of the Ministry of Justice Statistical Bulletin "Criminal statistics, England and Wales, 2006". 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 aggravated 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 December 2003 the offences of use of a hand held mobile phone whilst driving was added to the road traffic fixed penalty system

(4) 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

(5) 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

(6) 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

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	156,500	800	4,000	88,300	63,500	0.5	2.5	56.4	40.6	
Bedfordshire	89,800	2,000	300	60,900	26,600	2.3	0.3	67.7	29.6	
Cambridgeshire	64,500	100	1,200	39,000	24,200	0.1	1.8	60.5	37.5	
Cheshire	86,100	100	900	60,100	25,000	0.1	1.0	69.8	29.0	
Cleveland	45,800	300	1,300	27,500	16,700	0.6	2.8	60.0	36.5	
Cumbria	59,800	800	200	40,300	16,600	1.4	3.4	67.3	27.8	
Derbyshire	73,100	400	3,900	47,700	21,100	0.5	5.4	65.2	28.9	
Devon and Cornwall	159,300	200	3,600	108,000	47,400	0.1	2.3	67.8	29.8	
Dorset	90,800	300	1,800	59,600	29,200	0.3	2.0	65.6	32.2	
Durham	25,600	600	1,800	12,500	10,800	2.4	7.0	48.6	42.0	
Essex	138,500	200	1,800	96,800	39,700	0.1	1.3	69.9	28.7	
Gloucestershire	52,100	300	2,000	32,600	17,200	0.5	3.8	62.7	33.0	
Greater Manchester	276,400	1,100	2,100	142,800	130,500	0.4	0.7	51.7	47.2	
Hampshire	125,100	200	2,600	84,000	38,400	0.1	2.1	67.2	30.7	
Hertfordshire	140,600	1,500	2,000	103,000	34,200	1.0	1.4	73.2	24.3	
Humberside	89,600	100	1,700	62,600	25,100	0.2	1.9	69.9	28.1	
Kent	109,800	600	3,400	63,400	42,400	0.6	3.1	57.7	38.6	
Lancashire	139,600	400	2,500	73,000	63,600	0.3	1.8	52.3	45.6	
Leicestershire	86,000	200	1,700	59,300	24,800	0.3	2.0	68.9	28.9	
Lincolnshire	86,900	200	2,900	52,700	31,100	0.2	3.4	60.6	35.8	
London, City of	27,400	0	600	15,000	11,700	0.1	2.4	54.7	42.8	
Merseyside	112,100	300	1,000	77,400	33,500	0.2	0.9	69.0	29.9	
Metropolitan Police	384,200	600	800	208,800	173,900	0.2	0.2	54.4	45.3	
Norfolk	50,100	100	1,800	25,100	23,200	0.1	3.5	50.0	46.4	
Northamptonshire	77,200	100	1,200	52,400	23,500	0.1	1.5	67.9	30.5	
Northumbria	160,800	6,500	6,900	96,000	51,400	4.1	4.3	59.7	32.0	
North Yorkshire	36,900	200	900	21,300	14,500	0.5	2.4	57.8	39.3	
Nottinghamshire	97,200	100	1,800	70,100	25,200	0.1	1.9	72.1	25.9	
South Yorkshire	120,000	900	3,100	74,200	41,900	0.7	2.6	61.8	34.9	
Staffordshire	107,300	1,300	1,500	70,700	33,800	1.2	1.4	65.9	31.5	
Suffolk	75,200	0	0	49,000	26,100	0.0	0.0	65.2	34.7	
Surrey	80,600	700	2,600	59,100	18,300	0.8	3.2	73.3	22.7	
Sussex	133,100	2,100	1,100	102,500	27,300	1.6	0.8	77.0	20.5	
Thames Valley	212,000	600	2,100	158,200	51,200	0.3	1.0	74.6	24.1	
Warwickshire	66,600	3,700	2,100	45,700	15,100	5.6	3.1	68.7	22.7	
West Mercia	111,900	400	3,600	73,100	34,800	0.3	3.2	65.3	31.2	
West Midlands	224,100	1,500	3,700	93,400	125,500	0.7	1.7	41.7	56.0	
West Yorkshire	211,200	900	4,700	102,100	103,500	0.4	2.2	48.4	49.0	
Wiltshire	96,400	1,300	3,100	63,400	28,700	1.4	3.2	65.7	29.7	
Dyfed Powys	38,400	700	6,300	15,300	16,100	1.9	16.5	39.7	41.9	
Gwent	47,300	300	2,000	25,800	19,100	0.7	4.3	54.5	40.4	
North Wales	111,100	1,400	2,100	79,400	28,200	1.2	1.9	71.4	25.4	
South Wales	206,000	4,800	5,500	130,500	65,200	2.3	2.7	63.4	31.6	
England and Wales	4,883,000 ⁽⁴⁾	38,900	100,200	3,022,300	1,719,900	0.8	2.1	61.9	35.2	

(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, 7,799,191 penalty charge notices were issued in 2006 by local authorities for parking offences. See Notes 8 and 13(k)(iii).

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

England and Wales

Offence group	Offence type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽¹⁾	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1	Causing death or bodily harm	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
2	Dangerous driving	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.2	5.2	5.4	6.3	6.8	6.6	5.8	5.2
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	95.7	100.2	93.1	89.4	85.8	84.8	90.5	93.7	96.2	93.7	92.7
4(pt)	Use of hand held mobile phone whilst driving	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.0	0.6	1.8	2.3
4(pt)	Careless driving	57.4	55.8	52.1	46.8	41.3	36.9	33.6	31.7	29.9	28.3	26.2
5	Accident offences	17.9	18.0	17.3	16.4	15.8	15.9	16.3	17.1	16.3	15.2	14.5
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	32.2	30.3	30.0	29.5	25.4	24.6	25.8	24.2	21.8	19.2	17.7
7(pt)	Driving while disqualified	42.5	42.5	42.4	43.9	42.8	44.6	48.5	55.6	52.9	45.5	37.7
7(pt),9-12,14	Other licence, insurance and record keeping offences	713.7	703.8	693.9	668.9	670.6	655.3	706.6	816.2	820.3	709.5	613.9
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	243.7	234.6	233.3	227.4	217.2	203.1	211.4	221.9	205.9	165.2	125.8
16	Speed limit offences	130.0	132.8	153.5	153.6	141.4	135.6	124.6	140.1	143.2	160.4	154.4
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	46.5	42.4	40.8	38.2	37.7	34.6	32.6	33.9	35.7	34.4	35.3
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	15.4	15.7	16.8	16.6	14.2	14.0	13.2	14.0	10.7	8.3	6.8
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	24.5	23.3	22.9	21.2	17.9	14.2	13.6	12.4	11.2	10.2	8.1
23	Load offences	19.3	17.8	17.7	14.8	13.3	11.6	9.6	10.0	8.5	7.2	6.4
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.0	2.1	3.1	2.9
25(pt)	Non-compliance with notice to owner	7.7	11.8	9.9	10.2	3.6	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.5	0.7	0.5
25(pt)	Seat belt offences	6.7	6.4	6.6	5.5	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.7	4.1	4.7	4.6
25(pt)	Miscellaneous motoring offences	30.8	31.7	26.0	25.2	25.5	35.6	41.6	63.1	80.3	79.2	71.3
	Total (thousands)	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	1,392.7	1,226.7
	As a percentage of total court proceedings (Table 1)	65	66	66	66	66	66	65	67	68	69	71

(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⁾				Percentage of offences				
Offence group	Offence type	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
		1	Causing death or bodily harm	94	94	94	94	94	94	94	93	93	24	24	26	27	32
2	Dangerous driving	97	96	97	97	97	96	96	96	96	36	34	34	33	33	
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	89	89	89	89	88	88	88	88	88	12	13	12	12	12	
4	Careless driving	85	85	86	86	86	86	86	86	86	17	18	17	17	18	
5	Accident offences	88	87	87	87	87	86	86	86	86	23	23	22	21	19	
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	96	95	96	95	95	95	95	95	95	67	68	66	65	63	
7,9-12,14	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	22	20	18	17	16	
13,15	Vehicle test and condition offences	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	22	20	19	17	15	
16	Speed limit offences	83	82	82	82	82	81	81	81	81	4	4	4	4	4	
17-19	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	84	86	86	86	86	85	85	85	85	9	11	12	12	11	
20	Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	77	76	79	76	76	75	75	75	75	1	2	1	2	2	
21,22	Lighting and noise offences	90	90	90	91	91	90	90	90	90	22	22	20	19	19	
23	Load offences	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97	2	2	2	2	2	
24	Offences peculiar to motor cycles	97	97	98	98	98	98	98	98	98	81	77	72	72	72	
25	Miscellaneous motoring offences	83	84	83	82	82	82	82	82	82	5	4	3	3	3	
	Total	88	88	88	88	88	87	87	87	87	20	18	16	15	14	

(1) The numbers on which these percentages are based are published annually in the supplementary tables to this bulletin (see Note 23)

(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											2006
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Absolute or conditional discharge or recognizance	60.2	56.2	54.7	55.7	50.5	47.2	50.1	51.2	42.2	35.6	28.7	
Community rehabilitation ⁽²⁾ or Supervision order	32.5	31.7	31.0	29.6	25.6	26.0	29.9	33.6	31.6	15.1	3.7	
Fine	1,031.6	1,015.2	988.8	918.1	878.4	840.5	859.1	994.6	1,021.7	943.2	856.9	
Community punishment order ⁽²⁾	15.2	15.2	15.0	16.2	15.2	15.9	16.9	17.5	19.2	9.0	0.9	
Attendance centre order	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	
Community punishment and rehabilitation order ⁽²⁾	9.7	10.4	10.6	10.2	9.1	7.7	8.2	8.5	8.4	4.3	0.5	
Drug treatment and testing order	*	*	* ⁽³⁾	* ⁽³⁾	0.0	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.0	
Secure training order	*	*	0.1	0.2	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Referral order	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.5	13.5	9.7	9.0	8.0	
Community order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	24.4	43.1	
Suspended sentence	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	4.0	10.9	
Detention and training order	*	*	*	*	2.2	3.8	3.3	3.2	2.7	2.1	1.6	
Youth custody / young offender institution	9.8	9.6	9.5	10.5	7.4	6.7	6.4	6.2	5.1	4.1	3.2	
Unuspended sentence	22.4	23.6	23.3	24.6	23.9	24.5	25.0	26.4	23.3	19.9	15.5	
Other ⁽⁴⁾	1.8	1.9	2.5	3.1	5.7	11.2	13.7	13.2	16.8	13.5	11.5	
Total sentences or orders	1,185.7	1,166.2	1,137.8	1,070.6	1,020.1	985.6	1,026.1	1,170.6	1,183.2	1,085.2	984.9	
Offence not separately dealt with ⁽⁵⁾	287.1	288.2	305.6	325.0	327.9	323.0	336.6	358.8	346.5	290.0	226.0	
	by the Crown Court ⁽⁶⁾											
Sentence or order imposed	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽⁷⁾	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Absolute or conditional discharge	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	
Community rehabilitation order ⁽²⁾	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.1	
Fine	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	
Community punishment order	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.1	
Community punishment and rehabilitation order ⁽²⁾	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.0	
Drug treatment and testing order	*	*	* ⁽³⁾	* ⁽³⁾	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.0	
Secure training order	*	*	-	0.0	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Community order	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.7	1.1	
Suspended sentence	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.9	
Detention and training order	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Youth custody / young offender institution	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.4	
Unuspended sentence	5.9	6.3	6.4	6.0	5.6	5.2	6.1	6.0	5.5	4.8	4.3	
Other ⁽⁴⁾	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	
Total sentences or orders	13	13	13	12	11	10	11.7	11.9	11.5	10.0	9.0	
Offence not separately dealt with ⁽⁵⁾	7.3	7.5	8.4	8.4	7.3	7.2	8.3	8.5	8.4	7.2	6.9	

(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) 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 1996 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	£	£	£	£	£
1996	127	299	295	121	101	212	277					
1997	128 (124)	295 (286)	281 (272)	122 (118)	119 (115)	210 (204)	287 (278)					
1998	130 (122)	325 (305)	263 (247)	118 (111)	135 (127)	201 (188)	299 (280)					
1999	131 (121)	318 (294)	256 (236)	119 (110)	132 (122)	201 (186)	286 (264)					
2000	132 (118)	303 (272)	240 (215)	122 (109)	130 (117)	195 (175)	306 (274)					
2001	122 (107)	292 (257)	203 (179)	142 (125)	132 (116)	146 (129)	270 (238)					
2002	123 (107)	316 (274)	207 (179)	146 (127)	128 (111)	152 (132)	274 (237)					
2003	124 (104)	294 (248)	209 (176)	147 (124)	127 (107)	157 (132)	285 (240)					
2004	129 (106)	376 (308)	217 (177)	150 (123)	119 (97)	166 (136)	317 (259)					
2005	135 (107)	335 (266)	224 (178)	155 (123)	121 (96)	173 (138)	358 (285)					
2006	142 (109)	375 (289)	231 (178)	159 (123)	121 (93)	182 (140)	364 (281)					

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

(2) As estimated by the Retail Price Index (RPI).

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	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽³⁾	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1	Causing death or bodily harm	290	270	270	210	250	300	300	300	300	400	300
2	Dangerous driving	2,300	2,500	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,600	3,000	3,100	3,000	2,600	2,200
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	6,400	7,200	6,900	6,900	6,600	6,600	6,400	6,300	6,100	5,400	4,400
5	Accident offences	500	500	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	500	500
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	11,100	10,900	10,900	10,500	8,700	8,300	8,500	7,900	6,800	5,600	4,900
7(pt)	Driving while disqualified ⁽⁴⁾	20,300	21,000	21,200	23,300	22,600	23,600	23,700	25,400	21,700	17,900	13,700
9(pt)	Vehicle Insurance Offences ⁽⁵⁾	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
14	Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	100	100	100	100	90	80	300	100	100	100	0
25(pt)	Failing to give name and address etc. when required	30	30	30	40	50	30	30	20	30	-	-
	Total	41,000	42,500	42,200	44,000	41,200	42,100	42,900	43,800	38,600	32,400	26,000
		Percentage of findings of guilt resulting in an immediate custodial sentence ⁽²⁾										
1	Causing death or bodily harm	78	79	80	79	81	83	84	90	90	88	92
2	Dangerous driving	40	42	40	44	45	48	48	46	45	44	41
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	7	7	7	8	8	8	7	7	6	6	5
5	Accident offences	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
6	Unauthorised taking or theft of a motor vehicle	34	36	36	35	34	34	33	33	31	29	28
7(pt)	Driving while disqualified ⁽⁴⁾	48	49	50	53	53	53	49	45	41	39	36
9(pt)	Vehicle Insurance Offences ⁽⁵⁾	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7
14	Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	2	1
25(pt)	Failing to give name and address etc. when required	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). In 2005 includes three custodial sentences for offences of 'making false statements to obtain or failure to produce revoked licence'. In 2006 includes one custodial sentence for 'driving after false declaration as to physical fitness etc' and three for 'making false statements to obtain or failure to produce revoked licence'.

(5) Offence of 'making false statement or withholding material information in order to obtain the issue of a certificate of insurance'.

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

England and Wales		Thousands of offences										
Offence group	Offence type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	7	8	8	7	7	8 ⁽¹⁾	9	10	11	10	9
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	88	93	86	83	80	79 ⁽¹⁾	85	87	90	87	87
6-25	Other offences	61	60	64	66	66	78 ⁽¹⁾	90	93	90	80	70
	Total	156	161	158	156	153	165 ⁽¹⁾	184	191	190	176	166
	Persons disqualified under the penalty points system⁽²⁾	31	31	33 ⁽³⁾	34	34	30 ⁽¹⁾	30	33	31	29	26
		Endorsements without disqualifications										
1-5	Dangerous, drunken, careless driving and accident offences	74	72	67	61	55	50	47	44	41	39	36
16-19	Speed limit offences and neglect of traffic signs, directions and of pedestrian rights	852	974	1,052	1,066 ⁽⁴⁾	1,196 ⁽⁴⁾	1,388 ⁽⁴⁾	1,653 ⁽⁴⁾	2,200 ⁽⁴⁾	2,224	2,239	2,100
7,9,10,12	Licence and insurance offences	351	344	337	364	374	369	394	448	453	405	367
[6, 11, 13-15, 20-25]	Other offences	73	75	70	61	52	49	49	64	82	79	71
	Total	1,350	1,464	1,525	1,552 ⁽⁴⁾	1,677 ⁽⁴⁾	1,856 ⁽⁴⁾	2,143 ⁽⁴⁾	2,756 ⁽⁴⁾	2,801	2,762	2,564
	Of which:											
	As a result of a fixed penalty notice ⁽⁵⁾	717	841	903	915 ⁽⁴⁾	1,051 ⁽⁴⁾	1,256 ⁽⁴⁾	1,532 ⁽⁴⁾	2,069 ⁽⁴⁾	2,089	2,091	1,950

(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) 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	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 ⁽²⁾	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	2,300	2,700	2,200	2,100	2,000	2,200	2,600	3,000	2,900	2,400	2,300
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	51,900	57,000	54,600	52,900	52,300	53,500	57,900	59,600	62,300	59,900	60,900
6-25	Other offences	11,700	12,000	12,100	12,000	11,700	12,300	13,900	14,800	15,300	13,400	11,300
	All offences	65,900	71,800	68,900	66,900	65,900	68,000	74,400	77,400	80,500	75,700	74,500
		Disqualifications of over 1 year										
1, 2, 4, 5	Dangerous, careless driving and accident offences	35	34	28	28	27	28	28	29	27	25	25
3	Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	59	61	63	64	65	67	68	69	69	69	70
6-25	Other offences	19	20	19	18	18	16	16	16	17	17	16
	All offences	42	45	44	43	43	41	41	41	42	43	45
		Percentage of all disqualifications that were over 1 year										

(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	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total number of tests	781.1	800.3 ⁽¹⁾	815.5	764.5	714.8	623.9	570.2	534.3	578 ⁽²⁾	607.4	601.6
Number positive or refused	100.5	103.5	102.3 ⁽³⁾	94.1 ⁽³⁾	94.6 ⁽³⁾	99.5 ⁽³⁾	103.5 ⁽³⁾	106.3 ⁽³⁾	103.0 ⁽³⁾	104.3 ⁽³⁾	105.7
% Positive or refused	13	13	13	12	13	16	18	20	18	17	18

(1) See Note 15. (2) Revised data. See Note 17. (3) See Note 16.

Table 19 Screening breath tests by outcome and quarter

England and Wales													Thousands and percentages			
Outcome	2004 ⁽¹⁾				2005 ⁽¹⁾				2006 ⁽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	127.0	129.6	136.8 ⁽²⁾	184.6	131.8	130.6	134.4	210.5	131.4	137.5	127.2	205.6				
Number positive or refused	24.8	25.9	25.6	26.8	24.1	26.0	25.6	28.6	25.3	25.9	26.1	28.4				
% Positive or refused	20	20	19	14	18	20	19	14	19	19	21	14				

(1) See Note 16. (2) Revised data. See Note 17.

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

England and Wales 2006 ⁽¹⁾			Numbers and percentages	
Month	Total tests		Positive / refused	% Positive / refused
January	50,200		8,800	18
February	41,000		8,200	20
March	40,200		8,300	21
April	40,100		8,400	21
May	42,100		8,500	20
June	55,300		8,900	16
July	44,600		8,900	20
August	43,400		8,600	20
September	39,200		8,700	22
October	42,300		9,300	22
November	45,200		9,100	20
December	118,000		9,900	8
Total	601,600		105,700	18

(1) See Note 16.

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

Police force area	2005 ⁽¹⁾						2006 ⁽¹⁾					
	Total tests	Total tests per 100,000 pop	Positive / refused	Positive per 100,000 pop	% Positive / refused	Total tests	Total tests per 100,000 pop	Positive / refused	Positive per 100,000 pop	% Positive / refused		
	tests	100,000 pop	per 100,000 pop	per 100,000 pop	/ refused	tests	100,000 pop	per 100,000 pop	per 100,000 pop	/ refused		
England and Wales	607,400	1,145	104,300	197	17	601,600	1,127	105,700	198	18		
Avon and Somerset	22,000	1,443	3,200	209	15	15,800	1,031	2,700	179	17		
Bedfordshire	6,700	1,163	900	163	14	3,100	531	900	160	30		
Cambridgeshire	12,500	1,694	1,300	178	11	12,500	1,670	1,500	195	12		
Cheshire	22,000	2,217	2,000	197	9	35,700	3,599	2,200	221	6		
Cleveland	10,800	1,957	700	132	7	11,300	2,045	800	149	7		
Cumbria	13,600	2,744	800	166	6	13,800	2,767	800	159	6		
Derbyshire	17,700	1,806	1,300	135	7	16,000	1,632	1,100	115	7		
Devon and Cornwall	10,400	644	2,600	159	25	13,600	832	2,600	161	19		
Dorset	7,900	1,130	1,800	258	23	8,700	1,241	1,900	268	22		
Durham	7,700	1,299	1,100	180	14	6,900	1,160	1,100	176	15		
Essex	34,200	2,094	2,700	166	8	28,400	1,728	2,800	169	10		
Gloucestershire	9,100	1,593	1,300	230	14	10,100	1,754	1,500	265	15		
Greater Manchester	18,900	744	5,400	213	29	18,100	710	5,300	208	29		
Hampshire	38,300	2,127	4,300	237	11	34,800	1,920	3,700	205	11		
Hertfordshire	11,900	1,143	1,900	179	16	12,700	1,211	1,900	178	15		
Humberside	5,700	644	700	83	13	10,000	1,123	1,600	175	16		
Kent	31,200	1,937	2,200	135	7	31,700	1,955	2,200	138	7		
Lancashire	13,000	905	2,900	199	22	16,400	1,137	2,900	205	18		
Leicestershire	14,400	1,525	2,000	207	14	10,000	1,047	1,900	195	19		
Lincolnshire	11,400	1,697	1,000	148	9	10,600	1,559	1,200	171	11		
London, City of ⁽³⁾	1,100	..	200	..	16	1,600	..	300	..	16		
Merseyside	8,000	586	2,100	153	26	10,600	778	2,000	144	18		
Metropolitan Police	67,500	923	16,700	227	25	65,000	886	18,400	249	28		
Norfolk	10,400	1,270	1,000	128	10	7,800	952	1,400	169	18		
Northamptonshire	5,200	803	1,100	175	22	4,300	653	1,300	204	31		
Northumbria	9,300	666	2,600	188	28	7,900	560	2,600	187	34		
North Yorkshire	9,300	1,221	1,400	186	15	10,100	1,318	1,300	167	13		
Nottinghamshire	7,900	766	2,400	236	31	7,200	689	2,300	223	32		
South Yorkshire	13,700	1,071	3,700	290	27	10,300	799	2,900	222	28		
Staffordshire	14,300	1,363	1,900	178	13	12,700	1,206	1,800	171	14		
Suffolk	8,900	1,295	1,000	149	11	9,100	1,309	1,000	145	11		
Surrey	9,600	900	1,000	98	11	8,300	770	900	81	11		
Sussex	18,000	1,191	2,200	148	12	18,700	1,235	2,200	147	12		
Thames Valley	14,600	690	5,900	277	40	13,500	633	5,800	273	43		
Warwickshire	4,800	917	800	149	16	4,500	835	600	110	13		
West Mercia	8,800	749	2,700	229	31	11,300	951	2,500	211	22		
West Midlands	6,900	268	4,900	191	71	6,200	240	4,600	177	74		
West Yorkshire	15,400	729	4,700	222	30	18,000	850	5,900	280	33		
Wiltshire	7,200	1,143	1,200	199	17	8,700	1,381	1,100	180	13		
Dyfed-Powys	6,900	1,373	1,000	198	14	7,300	1,443	1,000	194	13		
Gwent	2,000	352	1,200	216	62	1,700	306	1,300	230	75		
North Wales	21,800	3,234	1,400	203	6	19,600	2,903	1,100	169	6		
South Wales	16,300	1,336	3,000	245	18	17,100	1,398	2,800	228	16		
Total	607,400	1,145	104,300	197	17	601,600	1,127	105,700	198	18		

(1) See Note 16. (2) Revised data. See Note 17. (3) 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	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 ⁽¹⁾
London local authorities						
Penalty charge notices issued	4,221.9	4,798.8	5,053.0	5,391.9	5,060.0	5,000.4
<i>of which</i>						
Paid within 14 days	1,835.6	2,017.6	2,220.9	2,500.1	2,377.4	2,357.7
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	444.0	517.8	550.4	809.3	524.8	589.7
Paid after charge certificate served	96.6	130.9	164.2	133.9	167.4	142.0
Sub-total paid	2,376.2	2,666.2	2,935.4	3,443.4	3,069.6	3,089.3
Cases going for adjudication	32.0	64.1	46.7	56.3	46.6	41.1
Number of certificates registered	827.8	990.1	788.2	775.4	721.9	657.3
No further action taken ⁽²⁾	611.9	1,014.7	965.6	903.2	674.5	927.4
Total ⁽³⁾	3,847.9	4,735.0	4,735.8	5,178.5	4,512.7	4,715.0
Number of vehicles wheelclamped	93.5	107.6	114.7	102.1	110.8	77.9
Number of vehicles removed	36.1	97.9	68.3	68.2	84.3	83.0
Other local authorities						
Penalty charge notices issued	1,081.1	1,614.3	2,069.6	2,261.3	2,569.6	2,630.9
<i>of which</i>						
Paid within 14 days	550.6	775.3	1,035.0	1,176.1	1,340.1	1,362.2
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	135.3	213.7	270.5	277.5	298.3	343.8
Paid after charge certificate served	33.5	49.9	56.0	61.2	97.7	107.0
Sub-total paid	719.4	1,038.8	1,361.5	1,514.8	1,736.1	1,813.0
Cases going for adjudication	2.9	5.1	6.6	8.1	6.7	6.5
Number of certificates registered	113.6	223.4	245.6	272.8	305.9	257.2
No further action taken ⁽²⁾	163.2	294.0	396.0	366.5	406.2	446.1
Total ⁽³⁾	999.1	1,561.4	2,009.7	2,162.2	2,454.9	2,522.8
Number of vehicles wheelclamped ⁽⁴⁾	2.6	4.0	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Number of vehicles removed ⁽⁴⁾	14.3	22.2	18.4	14.3	18.1	16.0
Number of local authorities issuing PCNs	44	61	83	98	126	135
England and Wales ⁽⁵⁾						
Penalty charge notices issued	5,303.0	6,413.1	7,122.6	7,653.2	7,629.6	7,631.3
<i>of which</i>						
Paid within 14 days	2,386.2	2,792.8	3,255.9	3,676.2	3,717.5	3,720.0
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	579.2	731.5	820.9	1,086.8	823.0	933.4
Paid after charge certificate served	130.1	180.7	220.2	195.1	265.1	249.0
Sub-total paid	3,095.6	3,705.0	4,296.9	4,958.3	4,805.7	4,902.3
Cases going for adjudication	34.9	69.2	53.3	64.4	53.3	47.6
Number of certificates registered	941.4	1,213.4	1,033.8	1,048.3	1,027.8	914.5
No further action taken ⁽²⁾	775.0	1,308.7	1,361.5	1,269.6	1,080.7	1,373.4
Total ⁽³⁾	4,847.0	6,296.3	6,745.5	7,340.7	6,967.6	7,237.9
Number of vehicles wheelclamped ⁽⁴⁾	96.1	111.5	116.3	102.2	110.9	78.0
Number of vehicles removed ⁽⁴⁾	50.4	120.1	86.7	82.5	102.4	99.0
Number of local authorities issuing PCNs ⁽⁶⁾	45	62	84	99	127	136

(1) 2006 figures exclude the London Boroughs of Croydon and Tower Hamlets. See Note 8. Including 2005 totals for the two areas would raise the London total to 5,168,278 and the England and Wales total to 7,799,191 penalty charge notices issued

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

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

(4) Not all local authorities collect this data.

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

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

Table 23 Penalty charge notices for on-street parking offences

Percentages of offences

Penalty Charge Notices	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
London local authorities						
Paid within 14 days	47.7	42.6	46.9	48.3	52.7	50.0
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	11.5	10.9	11.6	15.6	11.6	12.5
Paid after charge certificate served	2.5	2.8	3.5	2.6	3.7	3.0
Sub-total paid	61.8	56.3	62.0	66.5	68.0	65.5
Cases going for adjudication	0.8	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9
Number of certificates registered	21.5	20.9	16.6	15.0	16.0	13.9
No further action taken ⁽¹⁾	15.9	21.4	20.4	17.4	14.9	19.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other local authorities						
Paid within 14 days	55.1	49.7	51.5	54.4	54.6	54.0
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	13.5	13.7	13.5	12.8	12.1	13.6
Paid after charge certificate served	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.8	4.0	4.2
Sub-total paid	72.0	66.5	67.7	70.1	70.7	71.9
Cases going for adjudication	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Number of certificates registered	11.4	14.3	12.2	12.6	12.5	10.2
No further action taken ⁽¹⁾	16.3	18.8	19.7	16.8	16.5	17.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
England and Wales ⁽²⁾						
Paid within 14 days	49.2	44.4	48.3	50.1	53.4	51.4
Paid after 14 days but before service of charge certificate	11.9	11.6	12.2	14.8	11.8	12.9
Paid after charge certificate served	2.7	2.9	3.3	2.7	3.8	3.4
Sub-total paid	63.9	58.8	63.7	67.5	69.0	67.7
Cases going for adjudication	0.7	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.7
Number of certificates registered	19.4	19.3	15.3	14.3	14.8	12.6
No further action taken ⁽¹⁾	16.0	20.8	20.2	17.3	15.5	19.0
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 represe

(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 2005 have been published in Statistical Bulletins and in more detailed tables published separately ('Offences relating to Motor Vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary Tables') – see note 23.

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 CJEAU-OCJR 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. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

Court proceedings

5. 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 *Humber*, *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, 2005 and 2006.

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). The London Borough of Merton, for the year 2005, was unable to submit a breakdown by result of the 53,646 penalty charge notices issued. In 2006, the London Boroughs of Croydon and Tower Hamlets were unable to submit data for publication. As a result 2005 totals for these areas have been substituted instead in Tables A, B, C and 1 but not in Tables 22 and 23.

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. Following publication of 2004 data Gwent revised down their 2004 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 the Ministry of Justice Statistical Bulletin, Issue Nov 2007 "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 2006" 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).

(d) disqualifications ordered under Section 146 (1) of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 – the court by or before which a person is convicted of any offence committed after 31 December 1997 may, instead of or in addition to dealing with him in any other way, order him to be disqualified, for such a period as it thinks fit from holding or obtaining a driving licence.

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 were 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 by parking attendants within Special Parking Areas. 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 is 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 2006 there are 135 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) in April 2000. Following the success of the pilot scheme, the Government allowed netting-off to be rolled out nationally from August 2001. By the end of 2006 all forces in England and Wales with the exception of Durham and North Yorkshire had joined the scheme. On 15 December 2005 the Secretary of State for Transport announced the ending of the National Safety Camera Programme and netting off funding arrangement for cameras in England and Wales. Camera funding, activities and partnerships were integrated into the wider road safety delivery process from 1 April 2007. For guidance and best practice advice on the deployment of speed cameras from 1 April 2007 see the Department for Transport's Circular 1/07 – Use of Speed and Red-Light Cameras for Traffic Enforcement: Guidance on Deployment, Visibility and Signing.

(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 when caught 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 2006 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, Humberside, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northumbria, 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 2005.

17. Following publication of 2004 data Leicestershire police force revised their 2004 figures for the number of total breath test screenings from 15,400 to 15,800. In consequence national data have been adjusted.

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

Legislation affecting the figures

19. 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

20. 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

21. 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

22. 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

23. The following tables are contained in the companion volumes 'Offences relating to motor vehicles, Supplementary tables, England and Wales 2006'. These can be downloaded free from the Ministry of Justice 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 (2005 data)
Table 21(b)	Fixed penalty notices by result and police force area - percentages (2005 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
Table 22(c)	Penalty charge notices by result and London borough areas – numbers
Table 22(d)	Penalty charge notices by result and London borough areas - percentages

Enquiries

24. This bulletin has been prepared by the Criminal Justice Evidence and Analysis Unit (CJEAU-OCJR, Ministry of Justice), based on data obtained from the 43 police force areas and criminal courts within England and Wales by the Home Office Data Collection Group, Science and Research Group Support. Information on penalty charge notices was supplied by London Boroughs and other local authorities. If you have any enquiries about figures in this bulletin please email to:

cjea@cjs.gsi.gov.uk

Coverage and quality of the statistics in this volume

25. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented in this publication are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted by police forces, courts and local authorities from a variety of administrative data systems and the detail supplied to RDS-OCJR is therefore subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. Although some figures in this volume are shown to the last digit, the figures are not necessarily accurate to the last digit shown. It is important that users of the data take these limitations into account when using and interpreting the data presented in this volume. Where the statistics shown are rounded, the components may not add exactly to the rounded total because they have been rounded independently.

Acknowledgements

26. Acknowledgement is made of the contributions from John Frosztega and the staff of the Home Office Data Collection Group, Science and Research Support Group (SRGS).