



Motoring offenders in Wales, 2016

15 November 2017
SB 64/2017

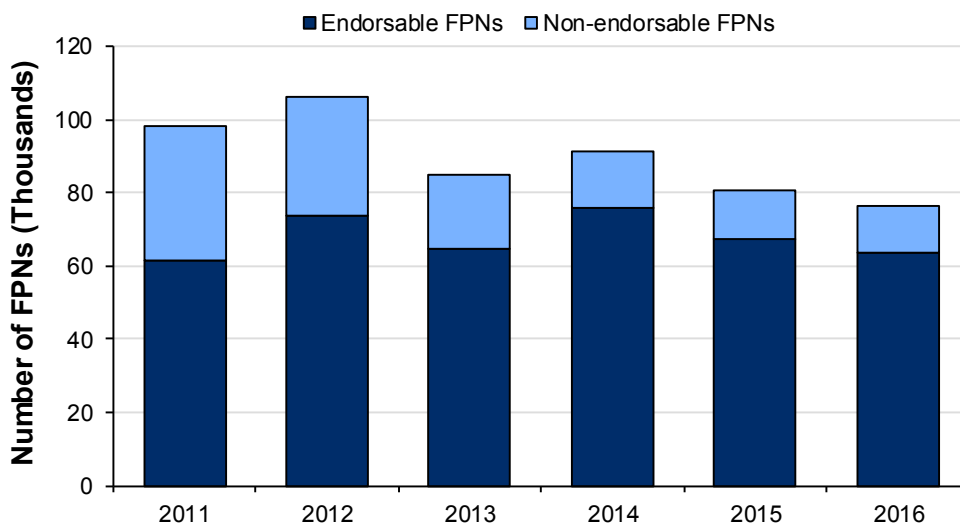
Key points

In 2016 the total number of **Fixed Penalty Notices** (FPNs) for motoring offences issued by the police (including traffic wardens) in Wales was 76,327, which is a 5.6 per cent decrease on 2015. Speed limit offences comprised 54,013 of these ([Chart 1](#) and [Table 2](#)).

There were a total of 64,769 motoring offenders who were dealt with by the **Magistrates court** in 2016, an increase of 12.9 per cent on 2015 ([Table 4](#)).

In 2016, there were 55,874 **screening breath tests** carried out and 8.2 per cent of these had a positive result. These 2016 figures represent a 12.0 per cent decrease in the number of tests undertaken and a 4.7 per cent reduction in the number of positive tests when compared to the 2015 figures ([Table 7](#)).

Chart 1: Endorsable and non-endorsable FPNs issued in Wales, 2011-2016



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Home Office (PentiP) data

Notes:

The Home Office widened the scope of the dataset for FPNs for motoring offences to include cases where a driver retraining course, such as a speed awareness course, was attended by the individual, as well as cases where an individual faced court action. However, information on the outcome of those summoned to court is not provided and therefore data do not contain the number of individuals prosecuted for motoring offences. These additional outcomes are provided in this publication for the first time and a full time series back to 2011 is available.

About this bulletin

This annual statistical bulletin contains data relating to motoring offences on:

- FPNs by police & traffic wardens (2011–2016)
- court proceedings against motoring offenders (2012–2016)
- screening breath tests (2000–2016)

Both endorsable and non-endorsable FPNs are referred to in this bulletin.

Civil parking enforcements, carried out by local authorities, are not covered in this bulletin.

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Introduction

Court Proceedings which relate to FPNs cover the use of police powers to issue on-the-spot fines for various motoring offences (*e.g. parking offences or speeding offences*). These FPNs can either be **endorsable** (points added to a driving licence), or **non-endorsable** (no points added to a driving licence).

Motoring offences can be dealt with by official police action either through **FPNs** or through **court proceedings**. In addition to official police action, Welsh local authorities have civil parking enforcement powers. This means that responsibility for parking enforcement in their areas no longer lies with the police (and Traffic Wardens) but lies with the local authority (as set out by Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, replacing Part II and schedule 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1991).

Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)

How many FPNs were issued by the Police in Wales in 2016?

In 2016, police (including traffic wardens) in Wales issued 76,327 FPNs for motoring offences, which was a 5.6 per cent decrease on 2015. This decrease consisted of a 5.8 per cent decrease in endorsable FPNs (a reduction of 3,934) and a 4.2 per cent decrease in non-endorsable FPN's (a reduction of 563) ([Table 1](#) and [Chart 1](#)).

Endorsable FPNs accounted for 83.1 per cent (63,440 FPNs) and non endorsable FPNs accounted for 16.9 per cent (12,887 FPNs). Speed limit offences accounted for 54,013 FPNs (70.8 per cent), whilst obstruction, waiting and parking offences accounted for 7,319 (9.6 per cent) of all FPNs issued. Seat belt offences accounted for 1,244 FPNs (1.6 per cent), neglect of traffic directions accounted for 4,253 (5.6 per cent), whereas the use of hand held mobile phone devices whilst driving accounted for 2,014 FPNs (2.6 per cent) ([Table 4](#)).

Outcomes of FPNs in Wales in 2016

In 2016, of all the FPNs issued by the police in Wales ([Table 1](#)):

- 80.5 per cent (61,416 FPNs) were paid,
- 15.7 per cent (12,020 FPNs) had court action,
- 2.8 per cent (2,132 FPNs) had driver retraining,
- per cent (744 FPNs) had fines registered,
- whilst the remaining 0.02 per cent (15 FPNs) were incomplete.

When compared to 2015, in 2016, of all the FPNs issued by the police in Wales the numbers of:

- driver retraining increased by 23.2 per cent (401 FPNs)
- fines registered decreased by 21.8 per cent (a reduction of 207 FPNs),
- court action decreased by 10.1 per cent (a reduction of 1,343 FPNs),
- fines paid decreased by 5.1 per cent (3,324 FPNs)
- incomplete FPNs decreased by 61.5 per cent (24 FPNs).

Table 1: Trends in endorsable and non-endorsable FPNs, by outcome, Wales, 2011-2016

	<i>Number of FPNs</i>					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Endorsable FPNs	61,548	73,713	64,834	75,737	67,374	63,440
Driver retraining	59	0	0	1,676	1,731	2,132
Fine paid	52,454	62,019	54,962	62,748	54,584	51,540
Fine registered	2,457	2,097	1,529	541	117	0
Court action	6,555	9,351	8,309	10,750	10,926	9,766
Incomplete	23	246	34	22	16	2
Non-endorsable FPNs	36,621	32,361	20,278	15,777	13,450	12,887
Driver retraining	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fine paid	27,768	24,314	15,502	11,881	10,156	9,876
Fine registered	7,858	6,881	3,905	2,313	834	744
Court action	823	885	629	1,491	2,437	2,254
Incomplete	172	281	242	92	23	13
Cancelled	5,278	6,312	5,383	9,211	8,818	8,965
Total FPNs	98,169	106,074	85,112	91,514	80,824	76,327
Total FPNs (Incl. cancelled)	103,447	112,386	90,495	100,725	89,642	85,292

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Home Office "Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales" (PentiP) data

Notes:

The Home Office widened the scope of the dataset for FPNs for motoring offences to include cases where a driver retraining course, such as a speed awareness course, was attended by the individual, as well as cases where an individual faced court action. However, information on the outcome of those summoned to court is not provided and therefore data do not contain the number of individuals prosecuted for motoring offences. These additional outcomes are provided in this publication for the first time and a full time series back to 2011 is available.

What are the patterns and trends in FPNs for motoring offences?

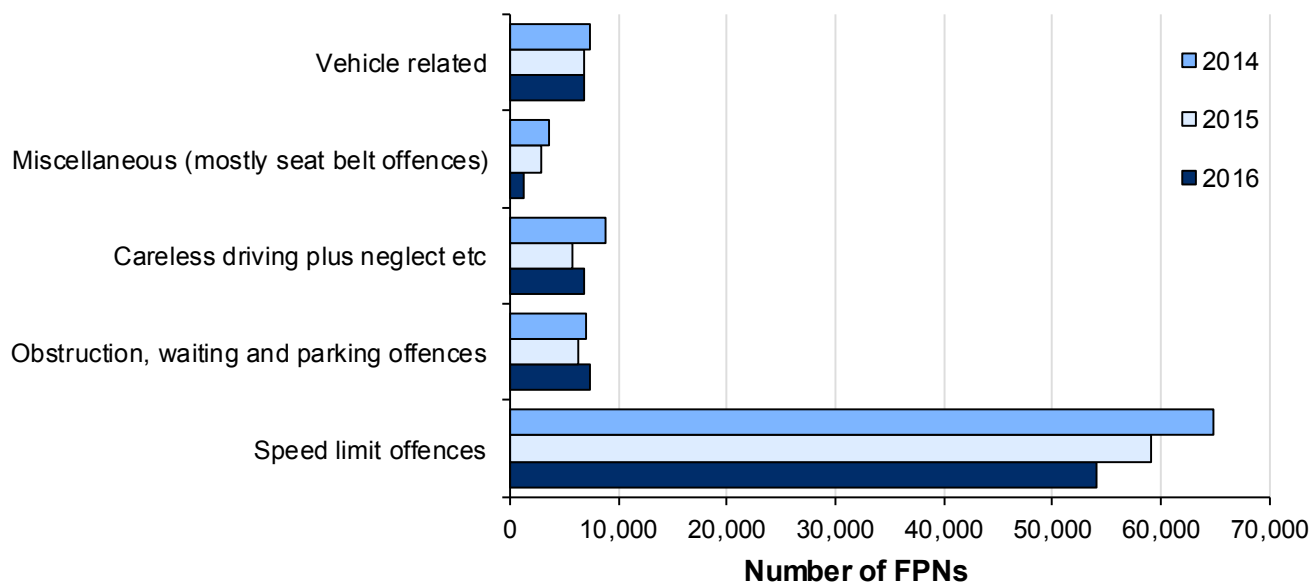
The total number of motoring offences dealt with by police action has fluctuated since 2011. A high of 106,074 FPNs was reported in 2012. In 2016, there were 76,327 FPNs which was the lowest recorded number of FPNs for this time period. Since 2011 FPNs have decreased annually apart from in 2012 and 2014, when there was a 8.1 and a 7.5 per cent increase when compared to the previous year ([Table 1](#) and [Chart 1](#)).

[Table 2](#) sets out how the broad categories have been derived from the detailed categories shown in [table 4](#). [Chart 2](#) shows the broad categories of FPNs issued in Wales highlighting speed limit offences as the largest group, accounting for just over 7 times any other group in 2016.

Table 2: Broad categories definition table

Broad Category	Offence Group	Detailed category
Vehicle related	Licence, insurance and record keeping offences	- Driving licence related offences
		- Using or keeping a heavy goods vehicle if levy not paid
		- Vehicle insurance offences
		- Vehicle registration and excise licence offences
		- Work record or employment offences
	Operators license offences	- Operators licence offences
Vehicle test and condition offences		- Vehicle test offences
		- Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition
Lighting and noise offences		- Lighting offences
		- Noise offences
Other offences		- Load offences
		- Offences peculiar to motor cycles
Speed limit offences		- Speed limit offences
Careless driving plus neglect etc	Careless driving	- Use offences involving careless driving (excluding use of hand-held mobile phone when driving)
		- Use of hand-held mobile phone while driving
	Neglect of traffic signs and directions and of pedestrian rights	- Motorway offences (other than speeding)
		- Neglect of traffic directions
		- Neglect of pedestrian rights
Obstruction, waiting and parking offences		- Obstruction, waiting and parking offences
Miscellaneous motoring offences		- Miscellaneous motoring offences (excl seat belt offences)
		- Seat belt offences

Chart 2: Broad categories of FPNs, Wales, 2014 to 2016



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Home Office data

Notes:

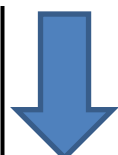
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Changes in the broad categories of FPNs between 2015 and 2016



Increases

Careless driving plus neglect **19.4%**
Obstruction, waiting and parking offence **17.5%**
Vehicle related offences **1.0%**



Decreases

Speed limit offences **8.7%**
Miscellaneous (mostly seat belt offences) **54.8%**

[Table 3](#) looks at endorsable and non-endorsable FPNs in Wales by outcome and whether the driver was present or absent.

Of all the FPNs issued in 2016:

- 60,825 (79.7 per cent) of drivers were absent, whereas 15,502 (20.3 per cent) of drivers were present.
- There was a 5.3 per cent reduction in the numbers of drivers that were absent when compared to the numbers of FPNs issued in 2015.
- There was a 6.6 per cent reduction in the numbers of drivers that were present when compared to the numbers of FPNs issued in 2015.

Table 3: Endorsable and non-endorsable fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued in Wales by outcome, 2014 to 2016 (a)

Outcome	Endorsable		All Endorsable FPNs	Non-Endorsable		All Non-Endorsable FPNs	Total FPNs
	(driver absent) FPNs	(driver present) FPNs		(driver absent) FPNs	(driver present) FPNs		
2014							
Court Action	7,119	3,631	10,750	234	1,257	1,491	12,241
Driver retrainin	102	1,574	1,676	0	0	0	1,676
Fine paid	54,400	8,348	62,748	5,789	6,092	11,881	74,629
Fine registered	0	541	541	1,204	1,109	2,313	2,854
Incomplete	1	21	22	48	44	92	114
Total	61,622	14,115	75,737	7,275	8,502	15,777	91,514
2015							
Court Action	7,457	3,469	10,926	979	1,458	2,437	13,363
Driver retrainin	96	1,635	1,731	0	0	0	1,731
Fine paid	49,670	4,914	54,584	5,562	4,594	10,156	64,740
Fine registered	0	117	117	451	383	834	951
Incomplete	6	10	16	13	10	23	39
Total	57,229	10,145	67,374	7,005	6,445	13,450	80,824
2016							
Court Action	6,151	3,615	9,766	1,019	1,235	2,254	12,020
Driver retrainin	41	2,091	2,132	0	0	0	2,132
Fine paid	46,969	4,571	51,540	6,071	3,805	9,876	61,416
Fine registered	0	0	0	570	174	744	744
Incomplete	0	2	2	4	9	13	15
Total	53,161	10,279	63,440	7,664	5,223	12,887	76,327

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Home Office "Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales" data

Notes:

(a) This data does not include cancelled FPNs

The Home Office widened the scope of the dataset for FPNs for motoring offences to include cases where a driver retraining course, such as a speed awareness course, was attended by the individual, as well as cases where an individual faced court action. However, information on the outcome of those summoned to court is not provided and therefore data do not contain the number of individuals prosecuted for motoring offences. These additional outcomes are provided in this publication for the first time and a full time series back to 2011 is available.

Table 4: Endorsable and non-endorsable fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued in Wales by offence, 2014 to 2016 (a)

Number

Offence Description	2014			2015			2016		
	Endorsable	Non-Endorsable	Total	Endorsable	Non-Endorsable	Total	Endorsable	Non-Endorsable	Total
Driving licence-related offences	346	27	373	360	151	511	252	193	445
Lighting offences	0	518	518	0	416	416	0	380	380
Load offences	86	440	526	79	430	509	78	355	433
Miscellaneous motoring offences (excluding seat belt offences)	0	182	182	0	132	132	0	71	71
Motorway offences (other than speeding)	10	10	20	20	4	24	5	5	10
Neglect of pedestrian rights	193	15	208	105	31	136	80	17	97
Neglect of traffic directions	3,769	410	4,179	2,394	328	2,722	3,881	372	4,253
Noise offences	0	226	226	0	190	190	0	146	146
Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	6	6,965	6,971	12	6,216	6,228	6	7,313	7,319
Offences peculiar to motor cycles	0	7	7	0	14	14	1	14	15
Operator's licence offences	0	1	1	0	3	3	0	5	5
Seat belt offences	0	3,372	3,372	0	2,778	2,778	0	1,244	1,244
Speed limit offences	64,817	8	64,825	59,174	5	59,179	54,002	11	54,013
Use of hand-held mobile phone while driving	3,993	0	3,993	2,362	0	2,362	2,014	0	2,014
Use offences involving careless driving (excluding mobile phone use)	415	11	426	422	11	433	390	15	405
Using or keeping a heavy goods vehicle if levy not paid	0	29	29	0	6	6	0	11	11
Vehicle insurance offences	1,357	1	1,358	1,832	0	1,832	2,130	0	2,130
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	745	281	1,026	614	182	796	601	128	729
Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	0	923	923	0	773	773	0	655	655
Vehicle test offences	0	1,728	1,728	0	1,532	1,532	0	1,624	1,624
Work record or employment offences	0	623	623	0	248	248	0	328	328
Total	75,737	15,777	91,514	67,374	13,450	80,824	63,440	12,887	76,327

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Home Office data

Notes:

(a) This data does not include the cancelled FPNs

The Home Office widened the scope of the dataset for FPNs for motoring offences to include cases where a driver retraining course, such as a speed awareness course, was attended by the individual, as well as cases where an individual faced court action. However, information on the outcome of those summoned to court is not provided and therefore data do not contain the number of individuals prosecuted for motoring offences. These additional outcomes are provided in this publication for the first time and a full time series back to 2011 is available.

Court proceedings

This part of the bulletin covers the number of motoring offenders prosecuted. Data collections for the number of motoring offenders prosecuted started in 2008 and in previous years this section covered the number of motoring offences dealt with by the courts.

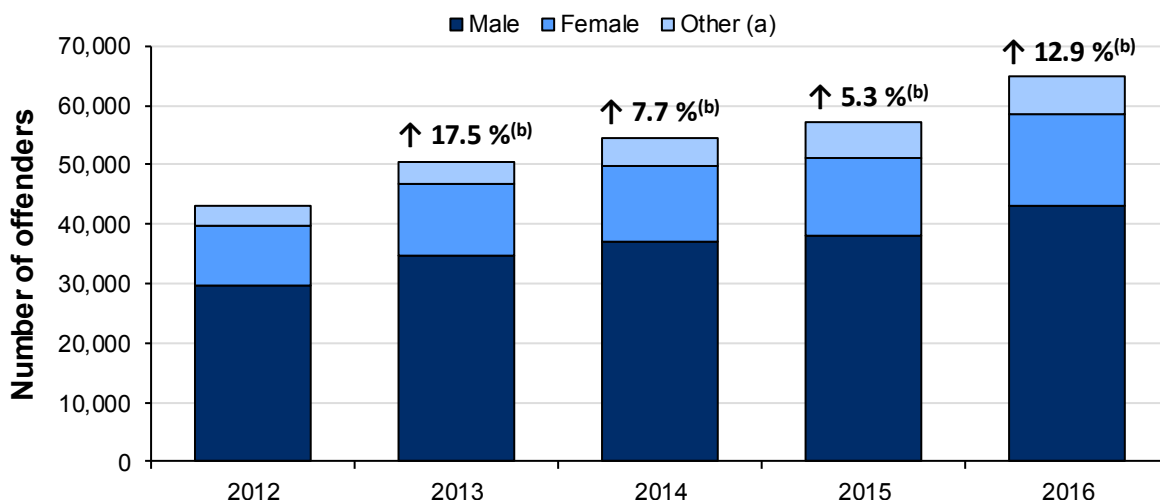
How many motoring offenders were prosecuted by magistrates' courts in Wales?

In 2016, 64,769 motoring offenders were prosecuted by magistrates' courts in Wales, an increase of 12.9 per cent since 2015. The number of motoring offenders has been increasing since this data collection began in 2008 and the latest figure represents a 50.5 per cent increase on the 2012 level ([Table 5](#) and [Chart 3](#)). Of the 64,769 motoring offenders, vehicle insurance offences and speed limit offences were the highest offence groups prosecuted for and accounted for 18,240 and 16,883 offenders respectively. A further 9,988 offenders were prosecuted for vehicle registration and excise licence offences and 3,224 offenders were prosecuted for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs ([Table 5](#)).

Of the sixteen motoring offences broader groups in 2016:

- Ten had increases in the numbers of offenders prosecuted ranging from 1.2 to 130.9 per cent when compared to 2015.
 - “Neglecting road regulations” (130.9 per cent) and “causing death by bodily harm” (58.9 per cent) were the highest increases when compared to 2015, although the latter had small numbers.
 - “Accident offences” (1.2 per cent) and “work record and employment” (4.8 per cent) were the lowest increases when compared to 2015.
- Six had decreases in the number of offenders prosecuted ranging from 0.5 to 20.0 per cent when compared to 2015.
 - “Vehicle/driver records fraud and forgery” (20.0 per cent) and “unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicles” (12.1 per cent) were the highest decreases when compared to 2015.
 - “Dangerous driving” (0.5 per cent), “driving, etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs” (1.9 per cent) and “vehicle insurance offences” (1.9 per cent) were the lowest decreases when compared to 2015.
- Further tables on this are available on our [StatsWales website](#).

Chart 3: Motoring offenders proceeded against at magistrates' courts by gender, 2012 to 2016



Source: Welsh Government analysis of criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice data

Notes:

- (a) Other includes offences committed by "other defendants" such as companies and public bodies with "unstated" gender
- (b) Percentages refer to the annual percentage change in total prosecutions when compared to the previous year.

Table 5: Motoring offenders: proceedings at magistrates' courts, 2012 to 2016 (a)

Motoring offences broader groups	<i>Number</i>				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Causing death or bodily harm	39	22	39	39	62
Dangerous driving	209	189	208	209	208
Driving, etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	3,284	3,100	3,127	3,285	3,224
Careless driving	885	856	823	898	829
Accident offences	341	428	354	340	344
Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicles	484	397	437	446	392
Driving licence related offences	1,330	1,415	1,211	1,291	1,425
Vehicle insurance offences	7,942	13,499	17,496	18,596	18,240
Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	8,386	5,914	4,251	7,099	9,988
Work record and employment	52	61	58	42	44
Vehicle test offences	420	478	240	400	522
Vehicle/driver records fraud and forgery	26	19	30	20	16
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	372	402	469	493	632
Speed limit offences	11,406	15,145	16,962	15,918	16,883
Neglecting road regulations	900	1,291	1,192	939	2,168
Miscellaneous offences	6,960	7,334	7,552	7,336	9,792
Total offences	43,036	50,550	54,449	57,351	64,769

Source: Welsh Government analysis of criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice data

Notes:

- (a) Excludes motoring offences dealt with by fixed penalty notices rather than court proceedings. A person appearing in court can be charged with one or more offences at the same time. The above table shows the number of offences involved rather than the number of persons appearing in courts. Includes offences committed by "other defendants" such as companies and public bodies and persons with "unstated" gender, which are not included in tables 4 and 5.

Motoring offenders by gender

Of the 64,769 motoring offenders in 2016, 66.5 per cent were male (43,094 offenders), 23.8 per cent were female (15,442 offenders) and 'others' accounted for the remaining 9.6 per cent (6,233 offenders). These percentages are similar to previous years ([Chart 3](#)). The 'others' group refers to offences committed by "other defendants" such as companies or public bodies and persons with "unstated" genders. The majority of both male and female offenders were prosecuted for vehicle insurance offences, speed limit offences, vehicle registration and excise licence offences and driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.

Table 6: Motoring offenders: proceedings at magistrates' courts, males, 2012 to 2016 (a)

Motoring offences broader groups	<i>Number</i>				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Causing death or bodily harm	36	21	34	34	53
Dangerous driving	187	164	190	197	195
Driving, etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	2,606	2,486	2,439	2,616	2,550
Careless driving	662	666	664	701	677
Accident offences	277	347	285	273	278
Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicles	449	373	406	414	364
Driving licence related offences	1,164	1,211	1,062	1,093	1,207
Vehicle insurance offences	5,712	8,672	10,446	10,788	11,342
Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	4,891	3,722	2,665	3,722	5,280
Work record and employment	45	50	50	35	42
Vehicle test offences	321	359	189	314	407
Vehicle/driver records fraud and forgery	23	14	26	13	16
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	311	343	399	431	527
Speed limit offences	7,856	10,504	11,977	11,450	11,955
Neglecting road regulations	652	887	860	668	1,389
Miscellaneous offences	4,532	4,788	5,277	5,157	6,812
Total offences	29,724	34,607	36,969	37,906	43,094

Source: Welsh Government analysis of criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice data

Notes:

(a) Excludes motoring offences dealt with by fixed penalty notices rather than court proceedings. A person appearing in court can be charged with one or more offences at the same time. The above table shows the number of offences involved rather than the number of persons appearing in courts. Includes offences committed by "other defendants" such as companies and public bodies and persons with "unstated" gender, which are not included in tables 4 and 5.

When compared to 2015, in 2016 ([Table 6](#) and [Table 7](#)):

- The number of male offenders prosecuted for speeding and vehicle insurance has increased by 4.4 per cent and 5.1 per cent respectively. This differs to female offenders which have increased by 8.3 per cent and 4.1 per cent for the same offenders.
- The number of convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs has decreased in males (2.5 per cent) but has increased in females (0.5 per cent).
- The number of prosecutions for “neglecting road regulations” increased in both genders with the greatest increase being in females (162.3 per cent) compared to males (107.9 per cent).
- The greatest decreases in male offenders prosecuted were in the “unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicles” (12.1 per cent) and “careless driving” (3.4 per cent) groups.
- The greatest decreases in female offenders prosecuted were in the “careless driving” (26.0 per cent) and “unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicles” (16.7 per cent) groups.

Table 7: Motoring offenders: proceedings at magistrates’ courts, females 2012 to 2016 (a)

Motoring offences broader groups	<i>Number</i>				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Causing death or bodily harm	3	1	5	5	9
Dangerous driving	22	25	17	11	11
Driving, etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	670	605	675	653	656
Careless driving	208	185	158	192	142
Accident offences	63	79	67	66	63
Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicles	34	24	28	30	25
Driving licence related offences	148	189	137	183	200
Vehicle insurance offences	1,742	3,074	4,100	4,242	4,416
Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	1,662	1,330	1,030	1,619	2,398
Work record and employment	0	1	0	1	0
Vehicle test offences	83	102	39	74	107
Vehicle/driver records fraud and forgery	1	2	2	4	0
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	40	51	64	56	99
Speed limit offences	3,331	4,437	4,778	4,264	4,618
Neglecting road regulations	221	376	309	247	648
Miscellaneous offences	1,630	1,701	1,575	1,621	2,050
Total offences	9,858	12,182	12,984	13,268	15,442

Source: Welsh Government analysis of criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice data

Notes:

(a) Excludes motoring offences dealt with by fixed penalty notices rather than court proceedings. A person appearing in court can be charged with one or more offences at the same time. The above table shows the number of offences involved rather than the number of persons appearing in courts. Includes offences committed by "other defendants" such as companies and public bodies and persons with "unstated" gender, which are not included in tables 4 and 5.

Further tables on this are available on our [StatsWales website](#).

Motoring offenders by police force area

When looking at motor offenders prosecuted at the magistrates' courts in Wales by police force area in 2016, South Wales had the largest number (62.3 per cent), followed by North Wales (14.8 per cent), Dyfed-Powys (12.3 per cent) and Gwent (10.6 per cent). For North Wales, Dyfed-Powys and Gwent these figures are broadly in line with the [mid-2016 population estimates](#). However the percentage of motoring offenders prosecuted in South Wales is 4 times greater than those in North Wales, but the population estimates for South Wales are only double those that are found in North Wales. The number of prosecutions increased in Gwent (55.4 per cent), South Wales (14.6 per cent) and North Wales (2.1 per cent) and decreased in Dyfed-Powys (4.1 per cent) when compared to 2015 ([Table 8](#)).

Table 8: Motoring offenders: proceedings at magistrates' courts by police force area, 2015 and 2016 (a)

Motoring offences broader groups	Number							
	North Wales		Dyfed-Powys		South Wales		Gwent	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Causing death or bodily harm	8	11	9	13	11	23	11	15
Dangerous driving	50	55	18	15	85	73	56	65
Driving, etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	751	776	537	487	1,490	1,406	507	555
Careless driving	355	256	279	262	176	203	88	108
Accident offences	154	104	33	42	119	155	34	43
Unauthorised taking or theft of motor vehicles	95	75	64	46	204	199	83	72
Driving licence related offences	285	303	226	282	589	639	191	201
Vehicle insurance offences	1,802	1,710	1,162	1,571	15,034	14,162	598	797
Vehicle registration and excise licence offences	486	574	469	397	6,137	9,001	7	16
Work record and employment	5	12	24	24	7	8	6	0
Vehicle test offences	183	159	82	131	104	133	31	99
Vehicle/driver records fraud and forgery	7	4	3	6	10	5	0	1
Vehicle or part in dangerous or defective condition	138	126	238	316	73	93	44	97
Speed limit offences	3,246	3,479	3,262	2,581	7,922	8,814	1,488	2,009
Neglecting road regulations	56	238	171	164	339	493	373	1,273
Miscellaneous offences	1,773	1,707	1,760	1,657	2,910	4,928	893	1,500
Total offences	9,394	9,589	8,337	7,994	35,210	40,335	4,410	6,851

Source: Welsh Government analysis of criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice data

Notes:

(a) Excludes motoring offences dealt with by fixed penalty notices rather than court proceedings. A person appearing in court can be charged with one or more offences at the same time. The above table shows the number of offences involved rather than the number of persons appearing in courts. Includes offences committed by "other defendants" such as companies and public bodies and persons with "unstated" gender, which are not included in tables 4 and 5.

The largest group of motoring offenders in North Wales (3,479 offenders), Dyfed Powys (2,581 offenders) and Gwent (2,009 offenders) was "speed limit offences" and in South Wales (14,162 offenders) was "vehicle insurance offences" which decreased by 5.8 per cent compared to 2015. The largest regional variation was observed for "vehicle registration and excise licence offences" which varied from 16 offenders in Gwent up to 9,001 offenders in South Wales. For "driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs" in 2016, North Wales (3.3 per cent) and Gwent (9.5 per

cent) increased whereas Dyfed Powys (9.3 per cent) and South Wales (5.6 per cent) decreased when compared to 2015.

[Table 9](#) shows the number of offenders found guilty of indictable motoring offences, which covers dangerous driving and vehicle fraud from the magistrates' and crown courts. When looking at the data from both courts, females accounted for only 1 in 17 offenders. In 2016 the total number of persons found guilty of indictable motoring offences from both courts was 370 where the crown court and magistrates' court accounted for 39.5 and 60.5 per cent respectively. Looking at the divide by police force, more offenders were found guilty in South Wales in both courts.

Table 9: Persons found guilty of indictable motoring offences, by gender and police force area, 2016 (a)

	<i>Number</i>				
	North Wales	Dyfed-Powys	South Wales	Gwent	Wales
Magistrates' courts					
Males	58	21	70	62	211
Females	1	0	7	3	11
Other (b)	0	0	1	1	2
Total	59	21	78	66	224
Crown courts					
Males	37	8	47	43	135
Females	2	1	5	3	11
Other (b)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	39	9	52	46	146

Source: Welsh Government analysis of criminal justice statistics, Ministry of Justice data

Notes:

(a) These offences cover dangerous driving and vehicle document fraud.

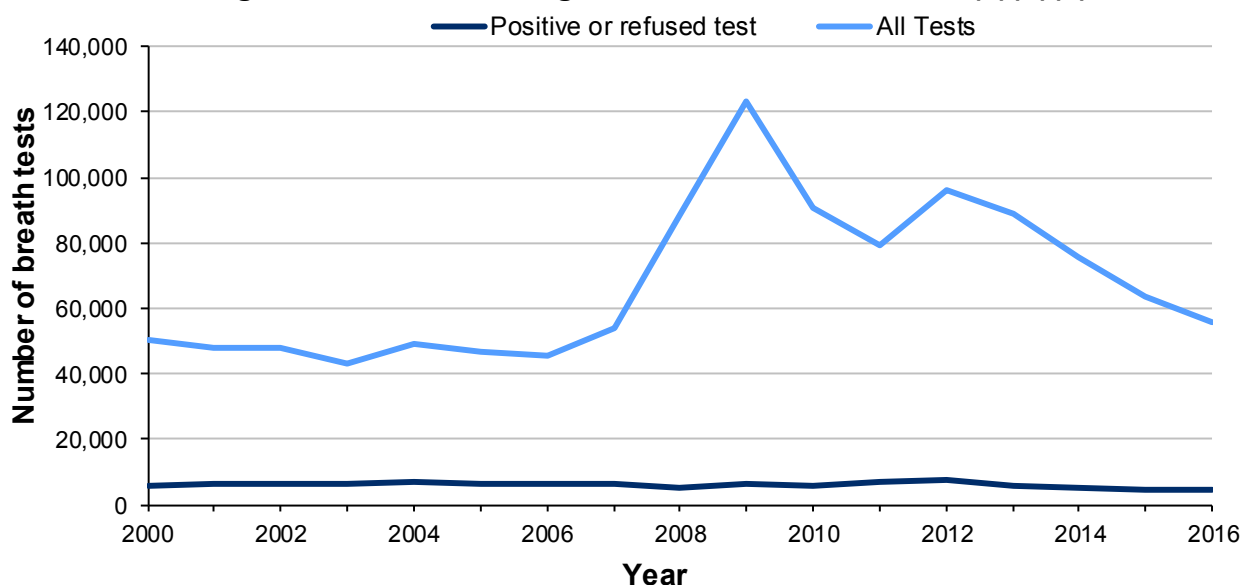
(b) Other includes offences committed by "other defendants" such as companies and public bodies with "unstated genders"

Screening breath tests

The number of annual breath tests has fluctuated considerably between 2000 and 2016 from a low of 43,000 tests in 2003 to a peak of 123,000 tests in 2009 ([Chart 4](#)); with large increases in the number of tests in 2008 and 2009 in particular. Over the same time period the number of positive test results has been more stable varying from a high of 7,900 in 2012 to a low of 4,600 in 2016. The number of screening breath tests in 2016 represents a 12 per cent reduction in the number of tests when compared to the 2015 figure.

From 2012 to 2016 there has been a downward trend in both the numbers of positive or refused breath tests as well as in the total number of breath tests carried out. However given the data limitations when looking at the longer term trend (see notes under [Chart 4](#)) and the large changes in the total number of tests, it is not possible to tell whether the reduction in positive breath tests could be attributable to fewer offences being committed, a change to processing the data or if fewer offences have been detected because of less tests being undertaken.

Chart 4: Motoring Offences: Screening breath tests, 2000 – 2016 (a)(b)(c)



Source: Welsh Government analysis of Home Office data

Notes:

- Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to know that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces.
- Due to under-reporting, the positive breath tests figure has been replaced by court proceedings for Dyfed-Powys and South Wales police forces since 1988, and for Gwent police force since 2001.
- From April 2003 Gwent changed to a different system of recording breath tests which resulted in a shortfall of total screenings.

- In 2016, there were 55,900 screening breath tests carried out and 4,600 (8 per cent) had a positive result, which is a 4.7 per cent reduction in the number of positive tests when compared to 2015 ([Table 10](#)).
- A higher proportion of tests in 2016 were positive (8.2 per cent) than in 2015 (7.6 per cent) even though there were less breath tests in 2016.
- Furthermore, since 2012 the number of positive tests recorded has decreased annually.

Table 10: Motoring offences: Screening breath tests (a)*Number (nearest hundred), Per cent*

	Positive or refused tests (b)	Negative test results	Percentage positive or refused	All tests (c)
2007	6,200	47,700	11	53,900
2008	5,200	83,000	6	88,200
2009	6,700	116,300	5	123,000
2010	6,000	84,900	7	90,900
2011	7,000	72,600	9	79,600
2012	7,900	88,200	8	96,100
2013	5,800	83,000	6	88,800
2014	5,100	70,700	7	75,800
2015	4,800	58,700	8	63,500
2016	4,600	51,300	8	55,900

Source: Welsh Government analysis of Home Office data

(a) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces.

(b) Due to under-reporting, the positive breath tests figure has been replaced by court proceedings for Dyfed-Powys and South Wales police forces since 1988, and for Gwent police force since 2001.

(c) From April 2003 Gwent changed to a different system of recording breath tests which resulted in a shortfall of total screenings.

Notes

1 Context

1.1 Related publications

Equivalent data for England can be found at the links for the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice in section 2 below.

Transport Scotland publish the number of motor vehicle offences recorded by the police by type of offence in the 'Road Transport Vehicles' chapter of the compendium publication titled '[Scottish Transport Statistics](#)'.

The Scottish Government publishes the number of people proceeded against in court for motor vehicle offences in the Statistical Bulletin titled '[Criminal Proceedings in Scotland](#)'.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland produces statistics on fixed penalty notices: [Fixed penalty notice \(FPN\) and discretionary disposal statistics for traffic offences](#)

The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service publish the number of defendants disposed of in the magistrates' courts for motoring offences: [Magistrates' Court Bulletin](#)

2 Data source

The information about fixed penalty notices for driving offences comes from the data series compiled by the Home Office in '[Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales](#)'.

The information on court proceedings reproduces the statistics compiled by the Ministry of Justice in their [criminal justice statistics](#).

3 Definitions

3.1 Coverage

The coverage in 'Police Powers and Procedures' includes the use of police powers to issue fixed penalty notices for motoring offences. This is broken down by offence type and how they were dealt with (e.g. penalty paid or fine registered at court). The data presented are drawn from returns from police forces in England and Wales.

The figures also include notices issued by police employed traffic wardens for parking offences. It should be stressed here that most traffic wardens are now employed by local authorities, and their activities are not covered here.

The box below shows the local authorities in Wales who have taken over the responsibility for parking enforcement and when this occurred:

Neath Port Talbot	1 June 1999	Pembrokeshire	1 Feb 2011
Carmarthenshire	1 Feb 2004	Powys	1 April 2011
Denbighshire	1 July 2004	Merthyr Tydfil	11 Jan 2012
Conwy	1 Sept 2006	Ceredigion	4 June 2012
Gwynedd	1 April 2007	Rhondda Cynon Taff	1 Aug 2012
Isle of Anglesey	1 April 2007	Bridgend	1 April 2013
Wrexham	1 March 2008	Vale of Glamorgan	1 April 2013
Swansea	1 Sept 2008	Flintshire	1 Oct 2013
Cardiff	5 July 2010		

Statistics on Vehicle Defect Rectification notices for motoring offences no longer appear in this bulletin as they were withdrawn from 2009.

3.2 Breath tests

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 their body (Section 6.1 of the Road Traffic Act 1988), that they have committed a moving traffic offence (Section 6.1), or that the person 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.

3.3 Indictable motoring offences

Indictable motoring offences cover only dangerous driving offences and vehicle document fraud. The table shows the number of people found guilty of the above offences. This differs from the other tables, where the numbers of proceedings are shown.

4 Symbols

The following symbols have been used throughout the bulletin:

. not applicable

.. not available

5 Key quality information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability.

5.1 Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor trends in driving offences and as a baseline for further analysis.

Breath test statistics are used to measure the effectiveness of drink–drive campaigns by police forces.

5.2 Accuracy

See section 5.5 below.

5.3 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics on court proceedings relate to cases in the magistrates' courts in Wales during 12 months ending December 2016.

5.4 Accessibility and clarity

This Statistical Bulletin is pre-announced and then published on the [Statistics for Wales](#) website and is accompanied by tables on our [Statswales website](#). Historically, this information was released in Chapter 5 of 'Welsh Transport Statistics'.

5.5 Comparability and coherence

From June 2012, PentiP, a new national system for processing FPNs, was introduced in police forces across England and Wales, replacing the Vehicle Procedures and Fixed Penalty Office (VP/FPO) system. VP/FPO data, supplied to the Home Office by individual police forces, are presented in this bulletin for the years 2007 to 2011 so that comparisons can be made on the number of FPNs issued during that period. Data for all forces from 2011 have been extracted centrally from PentiP, allowing comparisons to be made from 2011 onwards. In general, PentiP figures are slightly lower than equivalent ones from VP/FPO; PentiP figures for FPNs issued in England and Wales in 2011 are approximately 5% lower than those drawn from VP/FPO.

The user guide ([User Guide to Police Powers and Procedures](#)) contains further information relating to definitions, legislation, procedure and the change to PentiP.

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 and this release includes none of the national indicators.

Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation's progress? - National Indicators](#)

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

Further details

The document is available at: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/motoring-offences/?lang=en>

Further tables of data are available from [StatsWales](#).

Next update

Motoring offenders during 2017 Statistical Bulletin and StatsWales tables will be published December 2018.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to stats.transport@gov.wales.

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