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Driving bans, England and Wales 2017

How important?

Very—*Disqualification is the key penalty...it is the most potent incentive for change*

So said the Home Office, DETR and the Lord Chancellor in 2000. RoadPeace believes it is a punishment that fits the crime.

How many and how?

A total of 84,750 drivers were banned in England and Wales (2017)

- 58,099 directly disqualified at court (69%)
- 26,651 through totting up (31%)

For which offence?

Mainly drink driving. Most bans are given for offences where they are supposed to be mandatory, with two-thirds of bans related to drink/drug driving, with

- Over half of bans given at court (56%) are for drink driving
- Another 11% of bans are for other drink/drug driving related offences

How rare are bans

Very rare--Bans are very rarely imposed for speeding, careless driving or using a mobile phone whilst driving, with bans given to:

- 23 of the 8,078 drivers convicted at court for using their mobile phone
- 793 of the 10,074 drivers convicted at court for careless driving
- 3,999 of the 146,182 drivers convicted at court for speeding

Is it getting better? Are more bans being used?

No--bans are on the decline. Over twice as many bans were given at court ten years ago, with over 134,000 given in 2007.

Reform on the way?

It should be. In 2016, the Ministry of Justice consulted on Causing death/serious injury by driving, including the proposal to increase the minimum mandatory ban for causing death by driving to two years. In light of the responses to this consultation which called for much wider reform of the use of driving bans, it has said: *the government intends to give this proposal further consideration, to take account of disqualification for all offences and any emerging evidence on the effectiveness of disqualification and retesting requirements before proposing further changes to the law.*

Sources: DETR, Home Office Communications Directorate, Lord Chancellor (2000) Road Traffic Penalties. A Consultation Paper. MoJ (2017), Response to the consultation on driving offences and penalties relating to causing death or serious injury MoJ (2018), Criminal Justice Statistics, December 2017

