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Need for Comprehensive review of Road Traffic Offences: Lack of Justice for victims of Hit-and-run in England and Wales

Key points

- **Lack of appropriate charge.** Drivers who leave the scene of a fatal or serious injury collision are only charged with the summary offence of Fail to Stop, with a six month maximum custodial sentence. This is the same charge for drivers hitting another car or backing into a post.
- **Reform not happen.** In May 2014, the Justice Secretary announced a full review of driving offences. Hit and run offences were to be included as they represented a key gap.
- **Getting worse.** Since then, pedestrians killed in hit and run collisions have doubled. Law change is needed even more now but a comprehensive review has yet to happen.

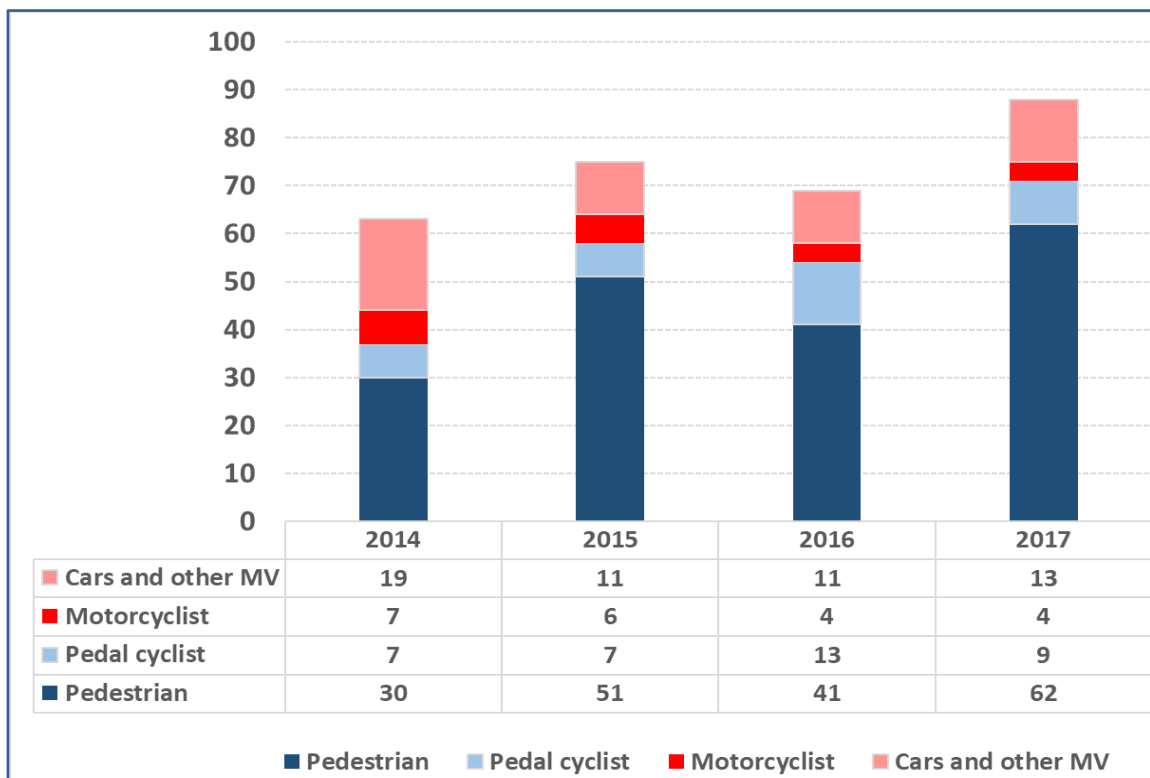


Figure 1 Fatalities in reported hit and run collisions, 2014-17 (DfT, 2018)

Latest statistics for 2017 reported by DfT

- 88 people were reported killed in hit and run collisions, up over one-third in 2016 (64)
- Pedestrians account for most of those killed (70%) with 62 deaths, up 50% from 2016 (41).
- One in eight pedestrians killed in a crash involves a driver who left the scene.
- As seen overleaf, pedestrians also dominate when serious injury collisions are included.

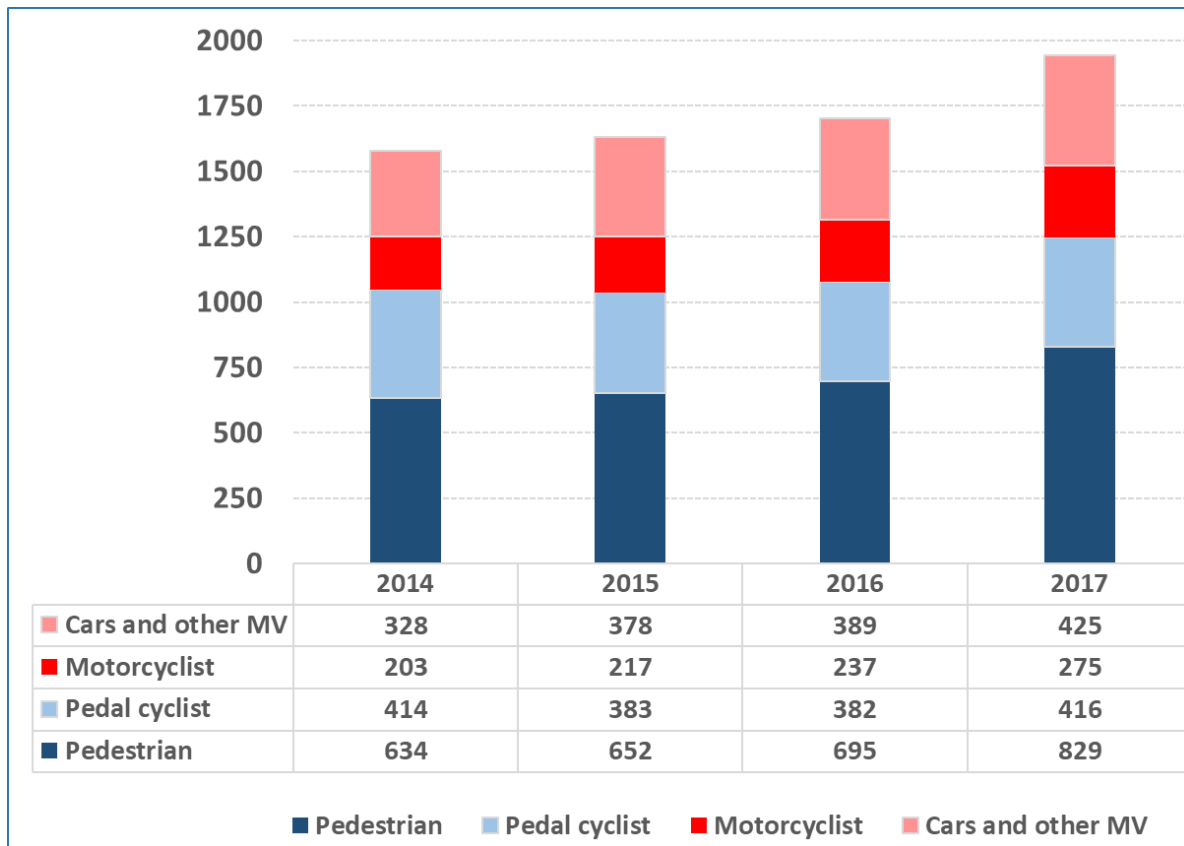


Figure 2 KSI in reported hit and run collisions, 2014-17 (DfT, 2018)

Where do hit and run collisions occur?

- Whilst the North West reports the largest number of fatal hit and runs, London accounts for one third of all fatal/serious injury hit and run collisions

	Fatal	Serious injury	Fatal/serious injury	Slight injury	Total
East Midlands	7	118	125	1049	1174
Eastern	5	76	81	375	456
London	18	646	664	5217	5881
North East	2	42	44	412	456
North West	19	240	259	1791	2050
South East	13	211	224	1720	1944
South West	8	80	88	822	910
Wales	5	41	46	315	361
West Midlands	2	79	81	655	736
Yorkshire/Humberside	9	233	242	1410	1652
England and Wales	88	1766	1854	12717	14571

Table 1: Hit and run collisions by area

Source: DfT (2018), 2017_Hit and run accidents_Ameq99.xlsx