

GRAVITY SCORES

General factors for consideration

The circumstances surrounding the offence should always be taken into account in determining the most appropriate response. There are a number of general factors that can affect the decision about how to proceed.

GENERAL FACTORS FOR ALL OFFENCES EXCEPT TRAFFIC OFFENCES

Aggravating Factors (+)	Mitigating Factors (-)
Conviction is likely to result in significant sentence.	Conviction is likely to result in unusually small or nominal penalty.
Weapon used or violence threatened during commission of offence.	Prosecution is likely to have bad effect on victim's physical or mental health.
Offence against public servant (e.g. police, nurse, council employee, etc.).	Offender supplied information which reduced risk, loss or harm to others.
Offender abused a position of trust – e.g. banker, baby-sitter, shop assistant.	Offender was influenced by others more criminally sophisticated.
Offender was ringleader/organiser.	Genuine mistake or misunderstanding.
Evidence of premeditation.	Vulnerability of the offender.
Offender was part of an organised team or offence was committed by a group.	Provocation from victim or victim's group and offender reacted impulsively.
Victim was vulnerable, deliberately put in considerable fear or suffered personal attack, damage, disturbance, or domestic violence.	The offence is minor and offender has put right harm or loss caused; has expressed regret; offered reparation or compensation.
Offence motivated by discrimination against victim's racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, gender, political views or sexual preference.	Offender is or was at time of offence suffering from significant mental or physical ill-health and offence is not likely to be repeated.
There are grounds for believing the offence is likely to be repeated or continued – e.g. by a history of recurring conduct.	The offence is so old that the relevance of any response is minimised, i.e. there has been a long delay between the offence occurring and the point of decision making – Unless the offence is serious; the offender contributed to the delay; the offence only recently came to light; or the complexity of the offence has contributed to long investigation.
Evidence of exploitation.	
The offence, though minor, is prevalent in the local area – as identified in the local crime audit, specified in the youth justice plan or specifically agreed with CPS to warrant more serious response.	

GENERAL FACTORS FOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES

Aggravating Factors (+)	Mitigating Factors (-)
serious injury caused to public or significant damage caused	genuine oversight, technicality of the offence or emergency circumstances
multiple offenders involved in similar offences at same time/location	no danger caused to public
potential risk to public or resultant danger	lack of knowledge

SPECIFIC GRAVITY FACTORS

Locally added scores / factors are shown as shaded entries.

Offence types:-

I = Indictable Only offence, E=offence triable Either-way,

S=Summary Only offence, PND a 'Penalty Notice for Disorder' available for offence

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
ABDUCTION				
Abduction of a girl under 16 yrs	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
Kidnapping	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
False Imprisonment	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
ANIMALS				
Causing unnecessary suffering by doing any act (protection of animals act 1911)	3	S	➤ Serious injury	➤ Minor injury
Causing unnecessary suffering by omitting to do any (1911 Act)	2	S	➤ Not following instructions	➤ Instructions not given
Cruelly ill-treat etc. (1911 Act)	3	S	➤ Premeditated instigator	➤ Reckless participant
Offences contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981)	2	S	➤ Protected species ➤ Killed inhumanely	
Abandonment (Abandonment of Animals Act 1961)	2	S	➤ Animals might have died if not rescued	
Dog Worrying Livestock	2	S		➤ No apparent injury
Poaching Offences	2	S	➤ Organised team ➤ Commercial purpose ➤ Sophistication	
Dangerous Dog (Order to be kept under control or destroyed)	4	S	<i>Excluded offence</i>	

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Abandoning, or allowing to stray a fighting dog) Sec. 1.2e Dangerous Dogs Act 1991)	4	S		➤ Dog destroyed
Possession without exemption of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other Designated Fighting Dog (Sec1.3 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991)	4	S		➤ Dog destroyed
Owner or Person in Charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a Public Place injuring any person (Sec. 3.1 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Serious injury ➤ No effort to control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minor injury ➤ Dog destroyed ➤ Beyond physical limitation of owner or person in charge ➤ First time person in charge
Owner or Person in Charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a Public Place no injury being caused (Sec. 3.1 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991)	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Person placed in fear ➤ Intent/Disregard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No injury/fear ➤ Dog destroyed ➤ Circumstances beyond the control of the offender
Owner or Person in Charge allowing dog to enter a Non-Public Place injuring any person (Sec. 3.3 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Serious injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minor injury ➤ Dog destroyed
ASSAULTS				
Threats to kill (S.16 OAP Act 1861)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Calculated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Threat made in heat of the moment
Poison - Administer/cause to be Administered noxious substance with intent to injure, etc.	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
Corrosive Fluid etc. - Throw with Intent to Maim etc.	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
GBH/Wounding with intent (S.18 OAP Act 1861)	4	I	<i>Excluded offence (and 'with intent to resist arrest')</i>	
GBH/Wounding (Sec. 20 OAP Act 1861)	4	E		

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
ABH (S. 47 OAP Act 1861)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Weapon Used ➤ More than one blow ➤ Attacked while victim vulnerable or defenceless e.g. 'on floor' ➤ Unprovoked attack ➤ Nature of the injury (especially where serious /disfiguring injury) ➤ Premeditated ➤ Domestic Violence ➤ Group action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Impulsive action ➤ Provocation ➤ Minor injury
Assault on Police (Section 51 Police Act 1996)	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sustained assault ➤ Attempt to prevent arrest of another ➤ Premeditation ➤ Any injuries caused ➤ Group action 	
Common Assault (Section 39 Criminal Justice Act 1988)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Significant injury caused ➤ Deliberate aggression without provocation ➤ Vulnerable victim ➤ Weapon used ➤ Premeditation ➤ Domestic violence ➤ Group action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trivial nature of action ➤ Impulsive action ➤ Injury very minor
BIGAMY				
Bigamy (LOCAL SCORE)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clear deception where other party has suffered loss or severe emotional injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Spouse has been missing for a significant period but under 7 years
BURGLARY				
Burglary with Intent to inflict GBH	4	I	Excluded offence	
Trespass with intent to commit a Sexual Offence (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	3	E	Always consult CPS	
Aggravated Burglary	4	I	Excluded offence	

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Burglary with Intent to Steal/Criminal Damage	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Night-time ➤ Occupier present ➤ Deliberately frightening occupants ➤ Soiling/ransacking/damage ➤ Professional operation ➤ Group offence ➤ 'Ram-raiding' ➤ Unrecovered property of considerable value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vacant premises ➤ Low value ➤ Coercion from others in group on reluctant offender
Burglary Dwelling	4			
Burglary Non-Dwelling	3			
CRIMINAL DAMAGE				
Criminal damage	2	E If over £500, otherwise S But all types are included in the Charging Scheme PND (£80)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Damage deliberate rather than reckless ➤ Potential of greater danger ➤ Group offence ➤ Damage £200+ approx. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Damage £50 or less
Criminal Damage valued at £300 (Home Office) £500 (max)				
Arson - life not endangered	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Damage deliberate ➤ Potential of greater danger ➤ Group offence ➤ Damage £200+ approx. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Damage £50 or less
Criminal Damage (including arson) with intent to Endanger Life or Reckless as to whether Life is Endangered	4	I	Excluded offence	

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Threat to destroy property of another	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intent to cause fear ➤ Potential value of damage £200+ approx. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Potential value of damage £50 or less
Possession of Articles with Intent to Commit Criminal Damage	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evidence of intent to commit serious criminal damage ➤ Potential value of damage £200+ (approx.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Potential value of damage £50 or less
CROSSBOWS				
Purchase/Hire of Crossbow or Part by Person Under 17 (sec.2 Crossbows Act 1987)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supply by dealer ➤ Aware it was an offence ➤ Evidence of firing 	
Possession of Crossbow or Part by Person Under 17 (sec.3 Crossbows Act 1987)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aware it was an offence ➤ Evidence of discharge in a public place 	
CRUELTY				
Cruelty/III Treatment to a child in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Persistent neglect over a long period ➤ Sadistic violence ➤ Repeated violence ➤ Substantial injury ➤ Premeditation 	
DEATHS				
Murder/Manslaughter	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
Infanticide	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
Child Destruction	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
Suicide/Attempted Suicide-aid/abet/counsel	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
DRUGS				
CLASS 'A' DRUG Supply/Possession with intent to supply	4	E		
CLASS 'B' OR 'C' DRUG Supply/possession with intent to supply	4	E		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group of people pooling resources to buy a supply of drugs to share between them. ➤ No profit made
CLASS 'A' DRUG possession	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In prison establishment ➤ Large quantity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small quantities consistent with personal use
CLASS 'B' OR 'C' DRUG possession	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In prison establishment ➤ Large quantity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small quantities consistent with personal use

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
CLASS 'A' DRUG Production	4	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commercial cultivation ➤ Large quantity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small quantities consistent with personal use
CLASS 'B' OR 'C' DRUG Production/Cultivation	4	E		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small quantities consistent with personal use
Permit use of premises for smoking Cannabis or Cannabis Resin	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On commercial basis ➤ Evidence of widespread use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Vulnerable offender
DRUNKENNESS				
Drunk and Disorderly	1 ADULT 2	S PND (£80)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of escalation ➤ Busy public place ➤ Offensive language or behaviour ➤ Threatening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Only witnessed by a police officer ➤ Little inconvenience to the public ➤ Non-threatening
Drunk and incapable	1	S PND (£50)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Appears to have a serious alcohol problem 	
Drinking in a Designated Area Section 12 Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001 (LOCAL SCORE)	1 ADULT 2	S PND (£50)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blatant actions ➤ Young persons present ➤ Offensive behaviour ➤ Risk of escalation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤
Drunk on a highway or public place in charge of a child under 7 years (LOCAL SCORE)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Child of particularly tender years ➤ Child at risk ➤ More than one child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minimal risk to child
EXPLOSIVES				
Explosive substances offences (most)		I	Excluded offence	
Throwing firework Section 80 Explosives Act 1875 (LOCAL SCORE)	2	S PND (£80)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Thrown at or towards person or animal ➤ Busy public place ➤ Local problem 	
FALSE MESSAGES				
Bomb Hoax (Section 51 Criminal Law Act 1977)	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 'Copy-cat' scenario ➤ Existing climate of fear ➤ Caused dangerous or large scale evacuation i.e. hospital, large sporting event ➤ Serious financial loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Obvious to recipient that a hoax

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Sending Malicious Communication (S.1 Malicious Communication Act 1988)	3	S	➤ Persistency	➤ Obvious to recipient that a hoax
False Alarms to Emergency Services (S.43 Telecomms Act 1984) (Also specific offence of False Fire Alarm under S.31 Fire Services Act 1947)	2 ADULT 3	S PND (£80)	➤ Persistency	➤ Obvious to recipient that a hoax
Other False Emergency Calls (S.43 Telecomms Act 1984)	2 ADULT 3	S PND (£80)	➤ Persistency	➤ Obvious to recipient that a hoax
Improper use of Telecom Systems (S.43 Telecomms Act 1984)	3	S PND (£80)	➤ Persistency ➤ Sexual and/or sadistic in nature	➤ Obvious to recipient that a hoax
FIREARMS				
Use firearm to resist arrest		I	Excluded offence	
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life/Injure Property (S.16 Firearms Act 1968)	4	I	➤ Type of weapon ➤ Discharge of weapon	
Possession of firearm whilst committing offence or with intent to commit offence (S.17 & 18 Firearms Act 1968)	4	I	➤ Type of weapon ➤ Discharge of weapon	
Carrying loaded firearm in public place (S.19 Firearms Act 1968)	3	E	➤ Type of weapon ➤ Discharge of weapon	
Trespass in building with loaded Firearm (S.20 Firearms Act 1968)	3	E	➤ Type of weapon ➤ Discharge of weapon	
Possession of firearm within set period of release (S.21 Firearms Act 1968)	3	E	➤ Type of weapon ➤ Discharge of weapon	
Person under 17 purchasing firearm or ammunition (S.22 Firearms Act 1968)	2	S	➤ Type of weapon	

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Person under 17 having air weapon in public (S.22 Firearms Act 1968)	1	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Impact on the public ➤ Aware it was an offence ➤ Evidence of firing 	
Supply (includes sale) firearm or ammunition to person under 17 (S.24 Firearms Act 1968)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supply by firearms dealer 	
Possession of firearm/shotgun without certificate(S.1.1 & 2.1 Firearms Act 1968) a) No certificate ever held	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Any form of usage ➤ Possession in public ➤ Type/construction of weapons (e.g. prohibited) ➤ History of lethargic renewal ➤ Deliberate avoidance of renewal procedure 	
b) Following non-renewal	2			
Making false statement to procure grant, renewal, or variation of firearm/shotgun certificate (S.26.5 & 29.3 Firearms Act 1968)	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Previous conviction(s) omitted which would affect decision to grant, renew or vary ➤ Deliberate supply of false information 	
Firearm - failure to comply with condition of certificate in relation to security of weapons (S.1.2 & 2.2 Firearms Act 1968)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Degree of carelessness/insecurity ➤ Previous history of insecurity ➤ Certificate held for period of time - therefore knew of the requirement 	
Drunk and in possession of a loaded firearm on a highway or in a public place (LOCAL SCORE)	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of danger to another person ➤ Threatening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No risk of danger ➤ Non-threatening

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
FOOTBALL GROUNDS				
Throwing a Missile in Ground (S. 2 Football (Offences) Act 1991)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Likelihood of injury ➤ Incitement factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No, or minor injuries
Taking part in racial or indecent chanting (S. 3 Football (Offences) Act 1991)	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Intent to incite others to stir up racial hatred ➤ Risk of escalation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Isolated incident
Going into a playing area or adjacent area without lawful authority or excuse (S. 4 Football (Offences) Act 1991)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of escalation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Non-threatening circumstances
Entering premises in breach of an exclusion order (S.32 Public Order Act 1986)	3	S		
FORGERY				
Making a False Document (S.1 Forgery & Counterfeiting Act 1981)	2 ADULT 3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nature of document and potential consequences ➤ Organised team ➤ Sophistication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poverty/personal need ➤ Coercion from others
Using a False Document (S.3 Forgery & Counterfeiting Act 1981)	2 ADULT 3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nature of document and potential consequences ➤ Organised team ➤ Sophistication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poverty/personal need ➤ Coercion from others
Possessing a False Document with Intent (S.5 Forgery & Counterfeiting Act 1981)	2 ADULT 3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nature of document and potential consequences ➤ Organised team ➤ Sophistication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poverty/personal need ➤ Coercion from others
Forgery of Documents etc. (Road Traffic Act 1988)	2 ADULT 3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nature of document and potential consequences ➤ Organised team ➤ Sophistication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poverty/personal need ➤ Coercion from others
HARBOURING				
Harbouring/Assisting escaped prisoners (LOCAL SCORE)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Premeditated ➤ Causing injury/damage ➤ Providing instruments/transport ➤ Assisted for reward ➤ Original sentence 7 years or more 	

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
INTERFERENCE WITH THE COURSE OF JUSTICE				
Conspiracy/Attempt to Pervert the Course of Justice	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	LOCAL REMINDER: Consider offence of 'Obstruct Police'
Perjury	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
Bail Personation	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
Escape from Lawful Custody	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
Prison - Escape/aid/assist	4	I	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
Breach of ASBO (LOCAL SCORE)	3	E		
LICENSING				
Sale outside permitted hours (LOCAL SCORE)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Over a long period or ➤ Accumulation of periods ➤ Sold in large quantities ➤ Many customers ➤ Previous offences of similar nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Short period ➤ Little sold ➤ Isolated incident ➤ Few customers (less than 6)
Licensee or servant knowingly sell or allow person under 18 years to buy or consume intoxicating liquor in a bar (LOCAL SCORE)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Large number of under age drinkers on premises ➤ Recurring offence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low number on premises ➤ Isolated incident ➤ Genuine belief person over 18 years
Person under 18 years buy/attempt to buy (LOCAL SCORE)	1	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Large number of under age drinkers on premises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low number on premises ➤ Isolated incident
Other person buy/attempt to buy for under 18 year old intoxicating liquor (LOCAL SCORE)	2	S PND (£50)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recurring offence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Genuine belief person over 18 years
Selling to a drunken person (LOCAL SCORE)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Frequent occurrence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Isolated incident
Person enters licensed premises in breach of court exclusion order (LOCAL SCORE)	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blatant breach of court order 	
MISCELLANEOUS				
Breach of ASBO (LOCAL SCORE)	3	E		

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Throwing stones at a train Section 56 British Transport Commission Act 1949 (LOCAL SCORE)	2	S PND (£50)		
Trespass on a Railway Sec 50 British Transport Commission Act 1949 (LOCAL SCORE)	2	S PND (£50)		
Most Non-Recordable Offences	1	S		
Breach of By-Laws	1	S		➤ Not a local resident
OBSTRUCTION				
Obstruct Police (S.51 Police Act 1964)	1 ADULT 2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attempt to prevent arrest of another ➤ Premeditation ➤ Group action 	
Wilful Obstruction of Highway	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Close to traffic hazard e.g. School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brief period only ➤ No considerable problems caused to other road users and/or pedestrians
OFFENSIVE WEAPONS				
Possession of Offensive Weapon	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Method of use ➤ Concern caused to member(s) of public ➤ Degree of danger 	
Possession of Sharp Pointed Blade	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Method of use ➤ Concern caused to member(s) of public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Genuine oversight in retaining blade after a lawful possession
PUBLIC ORDER				
Riot (Section 1)	4	I	Excluded offence	
Violent Disorder (Section 2)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Planned action ➤ Premeditated action ➤ Use of weapons ➤ People put in fear ➤ Damage caused ➤ Busy public place ➤ Large group 	
Affray (Section 3)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use of weapons ➤ People put in fear ➤ Damage caused ➤ Busy public place ➤ Group action 	

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour intended to cause fear of violence or to provoke violence (Section 4)	2 ADULT 3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use of weapons ➤ Group action ➤ People put in fear ➤ Risk of escalation ➤ Busy public place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No risk of escalation
Intentionally causing harassment, alarm or distress through threatening abusive or insulting words or behaviour or display (Section 4A)	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Racial overtones ➤ Risk of escalation ➤ Group action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No risk of escalation
Threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress (Section 5)	2	S PND (£80)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk of escalation ➤ Group action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Isolated incident ➤ No risk of escalation
Breach of ASBO (LOCAL SCORE)	3	E		
Incitement to cause racial hatred (LOCAL SCORE)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use/Display of weapons ➤ Premeditated group action ➤ Extent to which person put in fear ➤ Risk of escalation ➤ Busy public place ➤ Group action ➤ Vulnerable victim(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Single offender ➤ Heat of the moment
ROAD TRAFFIC				
Causing death by dangerous driving (Section 1 Road Traffic Act 1988)	4	I	Excluded offence	
Causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink or drugs (Section 3 Road Traffic Act 1988)	4	I	Excluded offence	
Driving Whilst Disqualified	4	S	Excluded offence	
Excess Alcohol/ Driving when unfit through Drink/Drugs	4	S	Excluded offence	

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Refusing to provide specimen of breath/blood/urine at police station	4	S		
Drunk in Charge	4	S	<i>Excluded offence</i>	
Dangerous Driving (Section 2 Road Traffic Act 1988)	4	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Alcohol/drugs a factor ➤ Racing/Competitive driving ➤ Grossly excessive speed ➤ Disregard for passenger warnings ➤ Persistent bad driving over a long period/distance ➤ Serious Risk ➤ Avoiding detection or apprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Continuing for only a short period ➤ Contributed to by action another
Failing to Stop After Accident/ Failure to Report Accident	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blatant disregard of need ➤ Serious injury & failure to remain at scene ➤ Serious injury and/ or serious damage ➤ Evidence of drinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No intent to evade liability for the offence ➤ Genuine belief that relevant person aware ➤ Negligible damage
Careless driving (Section 3 Road Traffic Act 1988)	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Major error of judgement ➤ Excessive speed ➤ Driving with disregard for road safety taking account of road, whether and/or traffic conditions ➤ Re-Test may be appropriate- Sec.36 Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 ➤ Disability -s.22 RTOA 1988 ➤ Deliberate act of selfishness, impatience or aggressiveness causing inconvenience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minor error of judgement ➤ Defect in road surface/signing, etc. ➤ Momentary lapse ➤ Adverse weather conditions ➤ Both (or more) drivers mat have been at fault
Inconsiderate Driving (Section 3 Road Traffic Act 1988)	2			

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a) Vehicle left in dangerous position b) Tampering with vehicle (S.25 Road Traffic Act 1988) c)Causing danger to other road users (S.22a Road Traffic Act 1988)	2 3 3	S S E	➤ Potential or actual danger intended ➤ Danger of serious injury to other road users	
Driving after false declaration as to physical fitness/failing to notify disability and refusal or revocation of licence (Sections 92-94 Road Traffic Act 1988)	2 2	S		➤ Voluntary surrender of licence
Failure to provide specimen for roadside test	2	S		
Speeding (above fixed penalty speed)	4	S		
Wanton and Furious Driving/Riding	4	I	Excluded offence	
ROAD TRAFFIC DOCUMENTS				
Driving other than in accordance with driving licence i.e. no 'L' plates 'L' driver unaccompanied 'L' driver carrying passengers No driving licence	2 2 2 3	S	➤ Blatant disregard of need	
No insurance	3	S	➤ Deliberate offence ➤ Offence involving TWOC or other offence giving rise to danger	➤ Genuine mistake/technicality ➤ Duty to provide insurance resting with another e.g. parent, company, hirer, etc.
No test certificate	2	S	➤ Blatant disregard of need	➤ Genuine oversight
Fraudulent Use of Excise License	2	E		➤ Both vehicle owned by offender
Failure to notify change of ownership	2	S	➤ Blatant disregard of need	➤ Genuine oversight
Construction and use offences	3	S	➤ Blatant disregard of need ➤ Seriousness of defect(s)	➤ Genuine oversight ➤ Minor defect(s)

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Drive vehicle subject to Prohibition Notice (Sec 71(1) Road Traffic Act 1988)	4	S		
Motorway Offences	3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Blatant disregard of regulations ➢ Serious risk to offender or other road users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Genuine mistake
<p>SEXUAL OFFENCES The majority of offences are now covered by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and, pending the formal issue of a new gravity score matrix, the new offences have been 'mapped' to the guidance relating to 'old' offences. All such offences are marked "Sexual Offences Act 2003 update".</p>				
Trespass with intent to commit a Sexual Offence LOCAL SCORE (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	3	E	Always consult CPS	
Sexual Activity with a person with a Mental Disorder (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	4	I or E	Always consult CPS	
Causing/Inciting Sexual Activity with girl under 13 years (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	4	I	Always consult CPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Facilitated by drugs/alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Offender and victim of similar age and no element of coercion or corruption present
Causing/Inciting Sexual Activity with girl 13-15 years (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	2	E	Always consult CPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Element of coercion ➢ Element of corruption ➢ Considerable age gap ➢ Used drugs/alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ No coercion or corruption ➢ Relationship in place
Sexual Assault (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Force used ➢ Elderly or youth victim ➢ Group action 	
Causing Sexual Activity without consent LOCAL SCORE (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	4 or 3	I or E	Always consult CPS	
Causing/Inciting Sexual Activity with a boy (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	2	E	Always consult CPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Genuine chance of public witnessing the offence ➢ Youth Victim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Consenting victim but under legal consent age

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Controlling/Causing prostitution for gain (male or female) (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	3	E		
Common prostitute loitering for prostitution Before any formal action is considered, the assumption that a child prostitute is a victim must first be acted on by referral to the multi-agency group. Only when advised by them can formal action be considered.	2	S		
Kerb crawling	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Affects residential areas 	
Indecent Exposure (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Victim put in fear ➢ Repeat performances 	
Rape (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	4	I	Excluded offence	
Assault by Penetration LOCAL SCORE (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	4	I	Always consult CPS	
Administering a substance with intent for sex by threat/drugs etc. (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	4	E	Excluded offence	
Commit an offence with intent to commit a Sexual Offence (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	3	E	Always consult CPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢
Incest (Sexual Offences Act 2003 update)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Element of coercion ➢ Victim did not wholly consent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Offender and victim are youths close in age ➢ Staleness ➢ Both parties over the age of consent and no element of coercion or seduction
Indecency with or towards children (LOCAL SCORE)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Significant age gap ➢ Coercion/threats ➢ More than more occasion ➢ Seriousness of any assault 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Offender and victim close in age

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Indecent photographs etc. (taking/distribution) (LOCAL SCORE)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Taken with a view to gain ➤ Another person/animal shown in picture ➤ Organised team ➤ Network distribution ➤ Involves children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has reasonable excuse for taking them ➤ Single photograph
Indecent photographs (possession only) (LOCAL SCORE)	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bought through network distribution ➤ Significant quantity or videos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Photograph of close family member ➤ Legitimate reason for possession ➤ Single photograph
SPORTING EVENTS				
Intoxicating liquor in possession on specified vehicle (Sections 1.3 & 1A.3)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group involvement ➤ Large quantity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small quantity
Drunk in a specified vehicle (Sections 1.4 & 1A.4)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group involvement ➤ Risk of escalation ➤ Threatening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Non-threatening
Intoxicating liquor/article in possession whilst entering or inside (viewing area) sports ground (Section 2.1)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group involvement ➤ Risk of escalation 	
Entering or being in a sports ground whilst drunk (Section 2.2)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Group involvement ➤ Risk of escalation ➤ Threatening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Non-threatening
THEFT				
Robbery/Assault with Intent to Rob	4	I	Excluded offence	
Theft - up to £100 in value - over £100 (approx.)	2 3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Planned ➤ Sophistication ➤ Organised team ➤ Value of £200+ (approx.) ➤ Unrecovered property of considerable value ➤ Adult involving children ➤ Significant related damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Theft for reasons of poverty/personal need ➤ Coercion from others in group in reluctant offender
Theft (shoplifting) Value £100 (Home office), £200 (max)		PND (£80)		
Going equipped to steal	2	E		

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Handling stolen property	3	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Property stolen to order ➤ Professional receiver ➤ Youth coercing children ➤ Property of high value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Received under pressure from another ➤ Very low value
Abstracting electricity	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Special equipment ➤ High usage ➤ Prolonged period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poverty/personal need ➤ Coercion by others
Obtaining property by Deception (Section 15 Theft Act 1968)	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sophistication ➤ Two or more involved ➤ Committed over lengthy period ➤ Unrecovered property of considerable value ➤ Value £200+ (approx.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poverty/personal need ➤ Coercion from others in group in reluctant offender ➤ Value £100 or less
Obtaining Services by Deception (Section 1 Theft Act 1978)	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sophistication ➤ Organised team ➤ Unrecovered property of considerable value ➤ Value £200+ (approx.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poverty/personal need ➤ Coercion from others in group in reluctant offender ➤ Value £100 or less
Evasion of Liability by Deception (Section 2 Theft Act 1978)	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sophistication ➤ Organised team ➤ Unrecovered property of considerable value ➤ Value £200+ (approx.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poverty/personal need ➤ Coercion from others in group in reluctant offender ➤ Value £100 or less
False Accounting	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sophistication ➤ Value £200+ (approx.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Value £100 or less
Blackmail	4	I	Excluded offence	
Taking vehicle without consent	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Premeditated ➤ Group action ➤ Related damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Taking from family member ➤ The taking is a technical offence
	ADULT 3			

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
Allowing self to be carried in vehicle taken without owner's consent (LOCAL SCORE)	2 ADULT 3	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Premeditated ➤ Group action ➤ Organised team ➤ Commercial basis (stole to order) ➤ Causes damage to vehicle or other property ➤ Excessive speed to avoid apprehension ➤ Evidence of drugs/alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Misunderstanding with owner ➤ Technical offence ➤ Keys left in vehicle ➤ Employee using outside working hours
Aggravated Vehicle Taking where owing to the Driving of the Vehicle, an Accident occurred causing injury to any person	4	E		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The taking is a technical offence ➤ Injured is member of drivers family
Aggravated vehicle taking where: a) Damage to any Property other than the vehicle b) Damage was caused to the vehicle c) The vehicle was driven Dangerously on a road or other Public Place (Section 1 Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992)	3	E or S But all types are included in the Charging Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Competitive driving or racing ➤ Drives furiously/recklessly to avoid apprehension/detection ➤ Excessive speed ➤ Evidence of drugs/alcohol ➤ Disregards warnings from passengers or others ➤ Premeditated ➤ Group action ➤ Evidence of alcohol or drugs ➤ Serious risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minor damage ➤ The taking is a technical offence ➤ Damage to own family property
Tampering with Motor Vehicle (S.25 RTA 1988)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Potential or actual danger intended 	
Interference with Vehicle (S.9 Criminal Attempts Act 1981)	2	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Damage to Vehicle 	
Making Off Without Payment (Section 3 Theft Act 1978)	2	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deliberate plan ➤ Two or more involved ➤ Large amount involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small amount involved

OFFENCE	Gravity Score	Offence type	AGGRAVATING FACTORS	MITIGATING FACTORS
WASTING POLICE TIME				
Wasting Police Time	2	S PND (£80)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Detention of innocent person ➤ Substantial time wasted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Early retraction and remorse ➤ Innocent prank

Final Score and Actions for YOUTHS and ADULTS

REMEMBER:

It will sometimes be necessary to consult agencies or departments such as the Crown Prosecution Service, Youth Offending Team, Child Protection and Sex Crimes Department, Firearms Department, Licensing Officers, etc., before a final decision is made ***even if*** all the evidence is available.

This table relates to charging decisions made by the custody officer for the offences shown in column A of Appendix A

YOUTH OFFENDERS

Final Score	Action
4	Always charge
3	Normally warn for a first offence. If offender does not qualify for a warning then charge. Only in exceptional circumstances should a reprimand be given. Decision maker needs to justify reprimand.
2	Normally reprimand for a first offence. If offender does not qualify for a reprimand but qualifies for a warning then give warning. If offender does not qualify for a warning then charge.
1	Always the minimum response applicable to the individual offender, i.e. reprimand, warning or charge.

ADULT OFFENDERS

Final Score	Action
4	Always charge (or conditional caution – must be Duty Prosecutor decision).
3	Normally charge but a 'simple' caution (or conditional caution – must be Duty Prosecutor decision) may be appropriate if first offence. PND may be appropriate.
2	Normally 'simple' caution for a first offence but a charge (or conditional caution – must be Duty Prosecutor decision) may be appropriate if previous convictions or appropriate to circumstances. PND may be appropriate.
1	Always the minimum response applicable to the individual offender, i.e. NFA, 'simple' caution, PND (or, exceptionally, charge).

NOTE: There will always be the potential for local initiatives whereby prosecution and diversion options are agreed outside this general guidance.