# Drivers sentenced after dangerous road incidents in Staffordshire and Birmingham



A series of court cases in Staffordshire and Birmingham have culminated in controversial sentences for two drivers involved in serious incidents on the roads.

In Stoke-on-Trent, 28-year-old James Whitehouse has been sentenced to 12 months in prison after taking a stolen BMW and leading police on a dangerous chase. The incident unfolded on 11 February when a woman was robbed of her white BMW outside a pharmacy in Hanley at approximately 9am. The prosecution, led by Matthew Ness, clarified that while the car was stolen, Whitehouse was not implicated in the robbery itself.

The situation escalated later that day when police spotted the suspect vehicle at a petrol station at around 2.25pm. An officer made eye contact with the driver, who then accelerated rapidly away from the scene. The court heard that Whitehouse drove recklessly, exceeding speed limits and crossing roundabouts incorrectly, which forced other vehicles to take evasive action. Following a collision involving a Toyota Yaris and a Mercedes, police were forced to abandon their pursuit for safety reasons.

Approximately 20 minutes after the initial sightings, an officer noticed the BMW once more, which prompted further pursuit. Whitehouse attempted several dangerous manoeuvres, including driving at 60mph in a 30mph zone and ignoring traffic signs. The chase came to an end when the vehicle hit a kerb and stopped. Upon extricating himself from the car, Whitehouse was discovered with significant injuries resulting from an earlier assault involving two individuals over a dispute regarding a mobile phone.

In court, Whitehouse acknowledged his actions, pleading guilty to charges of aggravated vehicle taking, dangerous driving, driving without insurance, and driving without a licence. His defence lawyer, Barry White, explained that Whitehouse hoped to flee from his assailants, which led to his reckless driving. Recorder Robert Smith condemned the serious nature of the driving displayed, stating, "You accept going through a No Entry sign and the wrong way up Town Road, Hanley." In addition to his prison sentence, Whitehouse has been banned from driving for a year and will require an extended retest thereafter.

In a separate case in Birmingham, Myron Wallace, a 27-year-old NHS worker, has avoided jail after causing serious injuries to pedestrian Michal Bird. On 16 March the previous year, Wallace struck Bird as he was crossing the road after attending a boxing event. Prosecutor Sally Cairns reported that Wallace was driving at speeds between 82 to 87mph in a 30mph zone shortly before the incident, resulting in Bird suffering catastrophic injuries which left him in a coma for over three weeks.

Wallace’s defence claimed he was remorseful for his actions, with his lawyer noting that he was 'showing off' to friends when he struck Bird. Though Wallace stopped briefly at the scene, he left after an altercation with Bird’s brother. Birmingham Crown Court sentenced him to ten months in prison, which has been suspended for two years, along with 200 hours of unpaid work and a driving ban for five years. The court also heard that Wallace has a history of driving offences, including previous convictions for driving while disqualified.

During the sentencing, Judge Simon Drew KC remarked on the seriousness of the situation, expressing surprise that the Crown had considered it to be a case of careless driving rather than dangerous driving. The combination of high speeds and reckless behaviour directly resulted in Bird’s serious injuries, as the judge affirmed, highlighting the catastrophic consequences of Wallace's actions.

These two cases underscore the grave consequences of reckless driving and the complexities surrounding traffic law enforcement.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source mentions two court cases in Staffordshire and Birmingham involving serious driving incidents, highlighting the legal consequences of reckless driving.
* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/penalty-points-and-driving-disqualifications> - This UK government website provides information on driving penalties, including fines and disqualifications, which are relevant to both James Whitehouse and Myron Wallace's cases.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2023/jun/22/uk-driving-laws-and-penalties> - The Guardian article discusses UK driving laws and their enforcement, offering context on the legal framework surrounding the cases mentioned.
* <https://www.road-safety.org.uk> - This website offers insights into road safety measures and the consequences of dangerous driving, aligning with the incidents described in the article.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63444138> - BBC news reports often cover legal cases and road safety issues in the UK, providing context relevant to such incidents.
* <https://www.cps.gov.uk/staffordshire> - The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) provides updates on legal proceedings and sentencing guidelines, which are relevant to the court cases described.