# Bentley driver with cocaine levels eight times legal limit avoids jail amid personal crisis



A 50-year-old businessman has narrowly avoided imprisonment after being caught driving his £200,000 Bentley while under the influence of cocaine, significantly exceeding legal limits. Steve Wynne, who was found to have over eight times the permissible amount of drugs in his system, attributed his impaired driving to a severe personal crisis following a tumultuous marriage that lasted a mere 24 hours. At the time of his arrest, Wynne was driving his 198mph Continental GT in Alderley Edge, Cheshire, causing concern as he veered across lanes, prompting police intervention.

During the police stop, officers noted his appearance was ‘sallow and grey’, and a small bag containing traces of cocaine was discovered in his pocket. Subsequent tests revealed Wynne had 67 micrograms of cocaine and 400 micrograms of benzoylecgonine per litre of blood, far exceeding the legal limits of ten and 50 micrograms, respectively. While he once owned a thriving kitchen design business, the fallout from his brief, highly questionable marriage appears to have led to a significant deterioration in both his mental health and financial stability.

In court, Wynne claimed that he had been taken advantage of by his bride, who allegedly vanished with £200,000 shortly after their wedding. He described the situation as a betrayal, stating, “I’ve lost everything.” His defence lawyer, Lesley Herman, characterised the case as a “rather sad tale”, emphasizing that Wynne had previously been a successful businessman, employing nine people and running two shops. Unfortunately, both his business and his mental health have suffered, leading to his current dependence on universal credit—intensified by the fact that these payments barely cover his rent.

Despite the severity of the offences, Wynne was sentenced lightly, receiving a £162 fine, a £65 surcharge, and a driving ban of 12 months. Asserting that his driving impairment on the day of the incident was more about his emotional state than drug use, Wynne's case has attracted attention not just due to the potential consequences of his actions but also for the broader implications regarding drug-impaired driving in the UK.

Comparatively, a similar case captured headlines in 2021, when another Bentley driver, Richard Bowser, was not so fortunate. Bowser was jailed for 18 months after leading police on a high-speed chase at 130mph while under the influence of cocaine. His reckless behaviour not only put other road users at risk but culminated in significant legal repercussions that starkly contrasted with Wynne’s comparatively lenient sentencing. This disparity raises crucial questions about the judicial system's handling of drug-related driving offences, particularly among affluent individuals.

As discussions surrounding mental health and addiction gain prominence, Wynne's case adds another layer to the ongoing dialogue about the responsibilities of individuals with substantial means. It might further highlight an aspect of privilege whereby the consequences faced by wealthy offenders can differ markedly from those encountered by average individuals in similar circumstances.

While Steve Wynne's situation has unfolded amid personal trials, it serves as a reminder of the inherent dangers of drug-impaired driving, echoing the statistics that suggest a worrying trend in road safety. As the debate continues, it becomes increasingly vital to scrutinise not only individual cases but also the broader societal influences that affect legal outcomes.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743867/Businessman-drove-Bentley-high-cocaine-avoids-jail-blaming-new-wife-24-hours-walked-200-000.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/uk-news/2021/07/23/bentley-driver-jailed-for-130mph-police-pursuit-while-high-on-cocaine/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743867/Businessman-drove-Bentley-high-cocaine-avoids-jail-blaming-new-wife-24-hours-walked-200-000.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/bentley-cocaine-driver-jailed-130-mph-police-pursuit-b947373.html)
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* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://guernseypress.com/news/uk-news/2021/07/23/bentley-driver-jailed-for-130mph-police-pursuit-while-high-on-cocaine/), [[7]](https://metro.co.uk/2021/07/23/drunk-bentley-driver-jailed-for-130mph-police-chase-while-high-on-cocaine-14979869/)

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1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14743867/Businessman-drove-Bentley-high-cocaine-avoids-jail-blaming-new-wife-24-hours-walked-200-000.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/uk-news/2021/07/23/bentley-driver-jailed-for-130mph-police-pursuit-while-high-on-cocaine/> - Richard Bowser, 44, led police on a high-speed chase in his Bentley Continental GT, reaching speeds up to 130mph while under the influence of cocaine. The pursuit ended when he crashed into a stationary police car. Bowser was subsequently jailed for 18 months at Durham Crown Court. The incident occurred on May 23, 2021, when Bowser, after consuming a significant amount of cocaine, attempted to evade police in County Durham. His reckless driving posed significant risks to public safety, leading to his arrest and conviction.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/bentley-cocaine-driver-jailed-130-mph-police-pursuit-b947373.html> - Richard Bowser, 44, was sentenced to 18 months in prison after leading police on a high-speed chase in his Bentley Continental GT while under the influence of cocaine. The pursuit reached speeds of up to 130mph in County Durham, ending when Bowser crashed into a stationary police car. The incident highlighted the dangers of drug-impaired driving and resulted in Bowser's conviction for dangerous driving, drink-driving, and drug-driving.
4. <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/news/national/bentley-driver-jailed-for-130mph-police-pursuit-while-high-on-cocaine-36306/> - Richard Bowser, 44, was jailed for 18 months after leading police on a high-speed pursuit in his Bentley Continental GT while under the influence of cocaine. The chase reached speeds of 130mph in County Durham, ending when Bowser crashed into a stationary police car. The incident occurred on May 23, 2021, and Bowser was convicted of dangerous driving, drink-driving, and drug-driving.
5. <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/uk-news/2021/07/23/bentley-driver-jailed-for-130mph-police-pursuit-while-high-on-cocaine/> - Richard Bowser, 44, was sentenced to 18 months in prison after leading police on a high-speed chase in his Bentley Continental GT while under the influence of cocaine. The pursuit reached speeds of up to 130mph in County Durham, ending when Bowser crashed into a stationary police car. The incident occurred on May 23, 2021, and Bowser was convicted of dangerous driving, drink-driving, and drug-driving.
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7. <https://metro.co.uk/2021/07/23/drunk-bentley-driver-jailed-for-130mph-police-chase-while-high-on-cocaine-14979869/> - Richard Bowser, 44, was jailed for 18 months after leading police on a high-speed chase in his Bentley Continental GT while under the influence of cocaine. The pursuit reached speeds of up to 130mph in County Durham, ending when Bowser crashed into a stationary police car. The incident occurred on May 23, 2021, and Bowser was convicted of dangerous driving, drink-driving, and drug-driving.