# Driver jailed for 14 months after A1 police chase wrecks five vehicles and injures seven officers



A personal trainer has been sentenced to 14 months in prison following a terrifying high-speed chase on the A1 that resulted in a catastrophic collision, wrecking five police cars and injuring seven officers. Judge Tim Gittins, presiding over the case at Newcastle Crown Court, emphasised the miraculous nature of the outcome, noting it was fortunate that no more serious injuries or fatalities occurred during the incident.

Mazyar Azarbonyad, 20, was pursued by police in the early hours of 9 April after they attempted to stop him for speeding and faulty rear lights. During the chase, he reached speeds exceeding 120 mph in his BMW X5, prompting officers to act urgently to prevent further danger. Courtney Redfern, who was with him on a first date, repeatedly urged him to stop, expressing concern for public safety. "In her opinion, she thought he could have killed someone," said prosecutor Jolyon Perks, highlighting the reckless nature of Azarbonyad's actions.

On the night of the crash, Azarbonyad initially pulled over for police but recalibrated his decision and sped off at high velocity. In court, he later described his own driving as “shit,” while attempting to downplay the severity of his behaviour by asserting that the police were in hot pursuit and driving too quickly. Despite his conditional bail release after earlier guilty pleas to dangerous driving and related charges, he continued driving until his arrest at a petrol station, underlining a disregard for the law that extended beyond the fateful night.

The aftermath of the collision was disastrous, leading to severe injuries for several police officers. One officer suffered significant soft tissue damage and nerve injury requiring extended hospital care, while another sustained a deep cut requiring stitches. Four of the seven injured officers remain off work due to the incident. Superintendent Billy Mulligan of Northumbria Police remarked on the sheer recklessness of Azarbonyad’s actions, categorising them as a stroke of luck that no further casualties ensued.

In a broader context, this case serves as a significant reminder of the dangers posed by reckless driving. Authorities later reported that the road was closed for several hours, resulting in widespread traffic disruption. The judge condemned Azarbonyad’s actions, stating it was inappropriate for him to drive, particularly in such a powerful SUV, given his status as a provisional licence holder with deficient driving experience.

Azarbonyad's personal background further adds complexity to the narrative; he emigrated from Iran to the UK at the age of 14 and settled in County Durham, with critics now questioning whether his life experiences contribute to his apparent disregard for the law. Despite his claims of remorse, the serious nature of the event has sparked discussions about vulnerability, accountability, and the potential repercussions on the future trajectory of young offenders engaging in dangerous driving behaviours.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/02/driver-jailed-for-a1-crash-that-wrecked-five-police-cars), [[3]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-car-pileup-driver-mazyar-azarbonyad-b2736086.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/02/driver-jailed-for-a1-crash-that-wrecked-five-police-cars), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/tyneside-newcastle-northumbria-police-gateshead-b1221803.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/02/driver-jailed-for-a1-crash-that-wrecked-five-police-cars), [[5]](https://www.expressandstar.com/uk-news/2025/04/10/man-released-on-bail-after-major-a1-crash-which-injured-seven-police-officers/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/02/driver-jailed-for-a1-crash-that-wrecked-five-police-cars), [[4]](https://news.sky.com/story/man-20-charged-over-police-pursuit-crash-that-injured-seven-officers-on-a1-13350601)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/02/driver-jailed-for-a1-crash-that-wrecked-five-police-cars), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-62235941)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/02/driver-jailed-for-a1-crash-that-wrecked-five-police-cars), [[5]](https://www.expressandstar.com/uk-news/2025/04/10/man-released-on-bail-after-major-a1-crash-which-injured-seven-police-officers/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/jun/02/driver-jailed-for-a1-crash-that-wrecked-five-police-cars> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/tyneside-newcastle-northumbria-police-gateshead-b1221803.html> - A driver in his 20s was arrested after a collision on the A1 in Newcastle that wrecked five police cars and injured seven officers. The man was released on bail pending further inquiries into serious injury by dangerous driving, failing to stop, having no insurance, and driving without a licence. A woman in her 20s was also arrested on suspicion of aiding and abetting dangerous driving and possession of class A and B drugs. The incident occurred around 2.30am on a Wednesday, leading to the closure of the major route for hours.
3. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-car-pileup-driver-mazyar-azarbonyad-b2736086.html> - Mazyar Azarbonyad, a 20-year-old personal trainer, admitted to dangerous driving after a chase that ended in a crash involving five police cars. The incident, which occurred on 9 April, also resulted in seven officers requiring hospital treatment. Azarbonyad pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, failing to stop twice, and driving without a licence and insurance. He was granted conditional bail after entering the guilty pleas at Newcastle Magistrates’ Court.
4. <https://news.sky.com/story/man-20-charged-over-police-pursuit-crash-that-injured-seven-officers-on-a1-13350601> - A 20-year-old man has been charged with dangerous driving after a police pursuit on the A1 in Tyneside resulted in a crash involving five police cars and injuries to seven officers. The crash led to the road's closure, and the man is also facing charges of failing to stop, not having insurance, and driving without a licence. A woman in her 20s was arrested on suspicion of aiding and abetting dangerous driving and drug possession offences.
5. <https://www.expressandstar.com/uk-news/2025/04/10/man-released-on-bail-after-major-a1-crash-which-injured-seven-police-officers/> - A driver in his 20s was arrested after a collision on the A1 in Newcastle that wrecked five police cars and injured seven officers. The man was released on bail pending further inquiries into serious injury by dangerous driving, failing to stop, having no insurance, and driving without a licence. A woman in her 20s was also arrested on suspicion of aiding and abetting dangerous driving and possession of class A and B drugs. The incident occurred around 2.30am on a Wednesday, leading to the closure of the major route for hours.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-62235941> - A lorry driver who killed three people in a crash on the A1(M) in County Durham has had his sentence upheld. Ion Onut, 41, admitted causing death by dangerous driving and was jailed for eight years and 10 months. The Attorney General's office said Onut's sentence did not meet the criteria for reconsideration under the Unduly Lenient Sentence Scheme. The crash involved six vehicles and left wreckage strewn across the road.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-67004183> - A lorry driver who rammed two police cars, drove the wrong way on a dual carriageway, and crashed into two other vehicles has been jailed. Daniel Barrass, 32, admitted a series of driving offences including dangerous driving and was sentenced to 28 months in prison. The incident occurred after Barrass drove onto the A1 while trying to flee from police in a stolen campervan in November 2021.