

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Criminal Courts Charge case-studies

The Criminal Courts Charge was introduced in April 2015. The following court cases are among hundreds that have been reported by local media.

- A 37-year-old homeless man, who jumped in front of a car in breach of an Asbo, was jailed for 12 weeks by magistrates in Taunton, Somerset, and ordered to pay a £180 criminal courts charge and an £80 victim surcharge. (*Thisisthewestcountry.co.uk*, 9 May 2015)  
[http://www.thisisthewestcountry.co.uk/news/12937282.Thief\\_gets\\_sent\\_down\\_for\\_99\\_days\\_more\\_from\\_Taunton\\_Magistrates\\_Courts/](http://www.thisisthewestcountry.co.uk/news/12937282.Thief_gets_sent_down_for_99_days_more_from_Taunton_Magistrates_Courts/)
- A 26-year-old homeless man who stole a can of Red Bull worth 99p from a supermarket in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and a £15 victim surcharge. (*Shields Gazette*, 27 May 2015)  
<http://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/crime/man-hit-with-165-court-bill-after-stealing-99p-drink-from-south-shields-store-1-7279307>
- A 26-year-old homeless man who admitted stealing drinks and chocolate worth £4.80 from a shop in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, was jailed for four weeks because of his lengthy record and made to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and an £80 victim surcharge. (*Mansfield and Ashfield Chad*, 18 May 2015)  
<http://www.chad.co.uk/news/crime/reports-from-the-courts-1-7265941>
- A 50-year-old homeless man breached an Asbo by entering an area in Taunton, Somerset, he was barred from. He was detained in the courthouse and ordered to pay a £180 criminal courts charge. (*Thisisthewestcountry.co.uk*, 8 June 2015)  
[http://www.thisisthewestcountry.co.uk/news/13319137.Thieves\\_drink\\_drivers\\_and\\_an\\_ASBO\\_breacher\\_see\\_who\\_s\\_been\\_in\\_Taunton\\_Magistrates\\_Courts/](http://www.thisisthewestcountry.co.uk/news/13319137.Thieves_drink_drivers_and_an_ASBO_breacher_see_who_s_been_in_Taunton_Magistrates_Courts/)
- A 41-year-old man who stole two tubs of ice cream worth £9.58 from a shop in Coventry, Warwickshire, was given a six-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

(*Coventry Telegraph*, 9 June 2015)

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/coventry-magistrates-court-being-drunk-9376948>

- A 27-year-old man who “trespassed” at a shop in Poole, Dorset, and stole three cans of drink to a value of £6.64 was ordered to pay £6.64 in compensation, a £15 victim surcharge and a £180 criminal courts charge.  
(*Bournemouth Daily Echo*, 10 June 2015)  
[http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/13321119.In\\_The\\_Dock\\_12\\_people\\_who\\_have\\_appeared\\_in\\_court\\_from\\_Bournemouth/](http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/13321119.In_The_Dock_12_people_who_have_appeared_in_court_from_Bournemouth/)
- A 19-year-old man admitted stealing sweets and ice cream to the value of £5 from a supermarket in Torquay, Devon, whilst subject to a conditional discharge imposed for two thefts. He was ordered to pay a £35 fine, a £180 criminal courts charge, a £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs.  
(*Herald Express*, 10 June 2015)  
<http://www.torquayheraldexpress.co.uk/courts-10-06-15/story-26694172-detail/story.html>
- A 37-year-old woman who stole shampoo worth £2.39 from a shop in Banbury, Oxfordshire, was given a six-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £35 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.  
(*Banbury Cake*, 11 June 2015)  
[http://www.banburycake.co.uk/news/13324174.Scales\\_of\\_Justice\\_18\\_cases\\_heard\\_at\\_Banbury\\_Magistrates\\_Court/](http://www.banburycake.co.uk/news/13324174.Scales_of_Justice_18_cases_heard_at_Banbury_Magistrates_Court/)
- A 33-year-old man pleaded guilty to stealing two gammon steaks from a shop in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal court charge, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.  
(*Stoke Sentinel*, 13 June 2015)  
<http://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/s-court-latest-cases-North-Staffordshire-June-13/story-26690462-detail/story.html>
- A 43-year-old man admitted breaching a criminal behaviour order by sitting on the ground within five metres of a shop without a reasonable excuse in Oxford, Oxfordshire. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay a £180 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Witney Gazette*, 15 June 2015)  
[http://www.witneygazette.co.uk/news/13329749.Scales\\_of\\_Justice\\_15\\_cases\\_heard\\_at\\_Oxford\\_and\\_Banbury\\_Magistrates\\_Court/](http://www.witneygazette.co.uk/news/13329749.Scales_of_Justice_15_cases_heard_at_Oxford_and_Banbury_Magistrates_Court/)

- A judge at Exeter Crown Court questioned the viability of the criminal courts charge after imposing a mandatory £900 fee on a homeless shoplifter. As the 29-year-old defendant was led away, Judge Alan Large asked: “He cannot afford to feed himself, so what are the prospects of him paying £900?”  
(*Exeter Express & Echo*, 18 June 2015)  
<http://www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk/Exeter-judge-questions-900-court-charge-homeless/story-26722936-detail/story.html>
- A 21-year-old man from Ilkeston, Derbyshire, was committed to prison for 28 days for breaching an existing court order and stealing a sandwich and a bottle of cider from a shop. He was ordered to pay compensation of £15.21 and a £150 criminal courts charge.  
(*Ilkeston Advertiser*, 19 June 2015)  
<http://www.ilkestonadvertiser.co.uk/news/local/who-from-ilkeston-has-been-before-the-courts-1-7316840>
- A 38-year-old homeless man admitted persistently begging in Oxford, Oxfordshire, and breached an Asbo prohibiting him from sitting within 10 metres of a cash machine. He was jailed for 30 days and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge.  
(*Oxford Mail*, 22 June 2015)  
[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/13344056.Scales\\_of\\_Justice\\_16\\_cases\\_heard\\_at\\_Oxford\\_Magistrates\\_Court/](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/13344056.Scales_of_Justice_16_cases_heard_at_Oxford_Magistrates_Court/)
- A 45-year-old man admitted two counts of begging, and failing to comply with a police officer’s request to stop drinking in public in Coventry, Warwickshire. He was given a 12-month Criminal Behaviour Order and ordered to pay a £300 criminal courts charge, a £150 fine and a £40 victim surcharge.  
(*Coventry Telegraph*, 29 June 2015)  
<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/coventry-magistrates-court-stealing-400-9521074>
- A 31-year-old woman from Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, admitted stealing shower gel worth £2.39 from a pharmacy. She was jailed for 14 days and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, a £20 victim surcharge and £2.39 in compensation.  
(*Worksop Guardian*, 29 June 2015)  
<http://www.worksopguardian.co.uk/news/local/court-results-worksop-and-retford-1-7332771>
- A 30-year-old homeless woman was convicted in her absence of begging in a car park in Coventry, Warwickshire. She was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, a £30 fine and a £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Coventry Telegraph*, 2 July 2015)

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/coventry-magistrates-court-woman-admits-9564015>

- A 40-year-old man pleaded guilty to selling tissues on a train in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, without the written permission of the operator. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Bucks Herald*, 2 July 2015)  
<http://www.bucksheald.co.uk/news/more-news/court-round-up-man-illegally-sold-tissues-on-train-1-6829667>
- A 28-year-old woman from Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, pleaded guilty to stealing a bottle of wine and two pasta pots from a supermarket. She was discharged conditionally for 18 months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and a £15 victim surcharge.  
(*Leicester Mercury*, 4 July 2015)  
<http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/Cases-Leicester-Magistrates-Court/story-26832987-detail/story.html>
- A *Shields Gazette* reader writes: "I am due to appear in Newcastle Crown Court in two weeks for an offence that I did not commit. I had planned on pleading not guilty, however I have been told that if I am found guilty I will have over £1,000 in costs to pay. Is this true?"  
(*Shields Gazette*, 7 July 2015)  
<http://www.shieldsgazette.com/opinion/columnists/legal-eagle-should-i-plead-guilty-because-i-can-t-afford-court-costs-1-7346138>
- An 18-year-old man who admitted to stealing a bottle of lager worth £2.09 from a supermarket in Poole, Dorset. He was ordered to pay compensation of £2.09 and a £150 criminal courts charge.  
(*Bournemouth Daily Echo*, 9 July 2015)  
[http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/13377257.In\\_the\\_Dock\\_4\\_people\\_who\\_have\\_appeared\\_in\\_court\\_from\\_Poole/](http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/13377257.In_the_Dock_4_people_who_have_appeared_in_court_from_Poole/)
- A 29-year-old homeless man was jailed for 14 days for stealing a bottle of wine worth £8 from a store in Chelmsford, Essex. He committed the offence a day after being released from court for the same offence. He was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and an £80 victim surcharge.  
(*Essex Chronicle*, 12 July 2015)  
<http://www.essexchronicle.co.uk/Named-shamed-round-cases-heard-Essex-magistrates/story-26876756-detail/story.html>
- A 34-year-old man from Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, who stole two ice creams, to the value of £2.50, from a shop was discharged conditionally for

six months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, a £15 victim surcharge and £2.50 in compensation.

(*Worksop Guardian*, 13 July 2015)

<http://www.worksopguardian.co.uk/news/local/court-results-worksop-and-retford-1-7355807>

- A 33-year-old homeless man pleaded guilty to three counts of breaching a criminal behaviour order after he was found holding “an open container of alcohol”. Magistrates in Folkestone, Kent, sentenced him to 12 weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months, and ordered him to pay a £185 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £100 victim surcharge.  
(*Folkestone Herald*, 14 July 2015)  
<http://www.folkestoneherald.co.uk/Justice-seen-Folkestone-criminals/story-26898442-detail/story.html>
- A 44-year-old man from Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, who was advised by a solicitor to plead not guilty changed his plea after being told he faced having to pay more than £1,400 if convicted after a trial. He was charged with using threatening, abusive or insulting words and behaviour following an altercation between football fans. He changed his plea after being warned he could be ordered to pay more than £600 in court costs and an £800 criminal courts charge.  
(*Mansfield and Ashfield Chad*, 22 July 2015)  
<http://www.chad.co.uk/news/crime/football-fan-changes-plea-over-violent-clash-after-being-warned-about-court-costs-1-7372221>
- A 27-year-old man from Downham Market, Norfolk, stole shower gel from a shop because he “needed a wash”, magistrates heard. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, plus £5.25 in compensation to the shop.  
(*Lynn News*, 24 July 2015)  
<http://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/local/latest-local-news/downham-market-man-stole-shower-gel-from-shop-because-he-needed-a-wash-court-told-1-6868611>
- A 27-year-old man stole meat products worth £24 from a supermarket in King’s Lynn, Norfolk. His solicitor told the court that he sold the products on to pay for gas and electricity. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and £24 in compensation.  
(*Lynn News*, 25 July 2015)  
<http://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/local/latest-local-news/king-s-lynn-man-stole-meat-to-pay-for-gas-and-electricity-1-6868670>

- A 21-year-old homeless man admitted to being drunk and disorderly in a public place in Weymouth, Dorset. He was discharged conditionally for six months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge.  
(*Dorset Echo*, 28 July 2015)  
[http://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/13503059.IN\\_THE\\_DOCK\\_See\\_who\\_has\\_been\\_before\\_the\\_courts\\_this\\_week\\_July\\_28/](http://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/13503059.IN_THE_DOCK_See_who_has_been_before_the_courts_this_week_July_28/)
- A 20-year-old man who was living in a hostel in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, kicked out at a flower pot after being stabbed with a needle by a fellow resident. He became homeless. He admitted criminal damage, which placed him in breach of two conditional discharges that were imposed on him for thefts. He was fined £70 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Stoke Sentinel*, 29 July 2015)  
<http://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/s-court-latest-cases-North-Staffordshire-July-29/story-27507506-detail/story.html>
- A 42-year-old homeless man was discharged conditionally for six months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and a £15 victim surcharge for begging in Derby, Derbyshire.  
(*Derby Telegraph*, 29 July 2015)  
<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Derby-courts-s-Bench/story-27501183-detail/story.html>
- A 32-year-old woman was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and £15 victim surcharge for begging in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire.  
(*Nottingham Post*, 30 July 2015)  
<http://www.nottinghampost.com/DOCK-CASES-DEALT-MAGISTRATES/story-27510405-detail/story.html>
- A 31-year-old homeless man who admitted stealing stationery worth £15 from a supermarket in Bicester, Oxfordshire, was fined £75 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and a £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Oxford Mail*, 3 August 2015)  
[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/13526546.Scales\\_of\\_Justice\\_16\\_cases\\_heard\\_at\\_Oxford\\_and\\_Banbury\\_Magistrates\\_Court/](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/13526546.Scales_of_Justice_16_cases_heard_at_Oxford_and_Banbury_Magistrates_Court/)
- A 25-year-old man admitted stealing chicken and garlic mushrooms, worth £1.78, and aftershave, worth £7.98, from shops in Ilkeston, Derbyshire. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.  
(*Nottingham Post*, 4 August 2015)

<http://www.nottinghampost.com/Thief-pinched-pound-1-78-food/story-27537725-detail/story.html>

- A 40-year-old homeless woman with addictions to heroin and alcohol admitted breaching a criminal behaviour order after she was caught trying to steal cheese and socks from a supermarket in Ludlow, Shropshire. She was jailed for six months and ordered to pay a £900 criminal courts charge.  
(*Ludlow and Tenbury Wells Advertiser*, 4 August 2015)  
[http://www.ludlowadvertiser.co.uk/news/13565428.Woman\\_given\\_prison\\_sentence\\_for\\_Ludlow\\_supermarket\\_breach/](http://www.ludlowadvertiser.co.uk/news/13565428.Woman_given_prison_sentence_for_Ludlow_supermarket_breach/)
- A 39-year-old woman who stole body cream worth £9.95 from a pharmacy in Longton, Staffordshire, was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.  
(*Stoke Sentinel*, 5 August 2015)  
<http://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/s-court-latest-cases-North-Staffordshire-August-5/story-27549781-detail/story.html>
- A 41-year-old woman from Worksop, Nottinghamshire, was fined £40 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £60 costs and a £20 victim surcharge for not having a TV licence.  
(*Retford Today*, 10 August 2015)  
<http://www.retfordtoday.co.uk/news/local/worksop-see-latest-court-results-1-7401633>
- A 37-year-old man from Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, threw a glass bottle through a car window, causing a 21-year-old woman to be scarred for life. The judge said he was unable to award compensation to the victim because he had to impose a £900 criminal courts charge on her attacker.  
(*Huddersfield Examiner*, 11 August 2015)  
<http://www.examiner.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/suspended-jail-sentence-holmfirth-bottle-9836093>
- A 25-year-old man who stole deodorant, baby milk and milkshakes worth a total of £25 from a shop in Snodland, Kent, was jailed for seven days and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge.  
(*Kent and Sussex Courier*, 11 August 2015)  
<http://www.courier.co.uk/NAMED-SHAMED-Kent-criminals-sentenced-court/story-27585423-detail/story.html>
- A 32-year-old woman admitted stealing a four-pack of Mars bars, worth 75p, from a shop in Kidderminster, Worcestershire. Her solicitor told the court that she took the item because she “had not eaten in days”. Magistrates fined her

£73 and ordered that she pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs, a £20 victim surcharge and 75p in compensation.

(*Halesowen News*, 11 August 2015)

[http://www.halesowennews.co.uk/news/worcestershire/13587194.Hungry\\_Kid\\_derminster\\_woman\\_stole\\_Mars\\_bars\\_after\\_benefit\\_sanctions\\_left\\_her\\_with\\_no\\_money\\_for\\_food/](http://www.halesowennews.co.uk/news/worcestershire/13587194.Hungry_Kid_derminster_woman_stole_Mars_bars_after_benefit_sanctions_left_her_with_no_money_for_food/)

- A 50-year-old man who was living in a tent admitted stealing a £2.99 bottle of wine from a supermarket in Newbury, Berkshire. He was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and a £15 victim surcharge. Magistrates made no order of costs, owing to the man's "limited means".  
(*Newbury Today*, 12 August 2015)  
<http://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/news/15425/Shoplifter-was-living-in-tent.html>
- A 38-year-old man was handed a 12-month conditional discharge and was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge for begging in a car park in Derby, Derbyshire.  
(*Derby Telegraph*, 12 August 2015)  
<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Named-shamed-s-Derbyshire-s-courts/story-27596519-detail/story.html>
- A 38-year-old woman who tried to steal meat worth £20 from a supermarket was given a six-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and an £80 victim surcharge by magistrates in Telford, Shropshire.  
(*Shropshire Star*, 13 August 2015)  
<http://www.shropshirestar.com/news/2015/08/13/telford-aldi-meat-thief-shocked-at-punishment/>
- A 51-year-old homeless man admitted being drunk and disorderly in Oxford, Oxfordshire. He was fined £50 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Oxford Mail*, 13 August 2015)  
[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/13593006.Scales\\_of\\_Justice\\_17\\_cases\\_heard\\_at\\_Oxford\\_and\\_Banbury\\_Magistrates\\_Court/](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/13593006.Scales_of_Justice_17_cases_heard_at_Oxford_and_Banbury_Magistrates_Court/)
- A 64-year-old homeless man admitted being drunk and consuming alcohol at a park-and-ride site in Oxford, Oxfordshire. This was in breach of an order. He was sent to prison for 18 weeks and ordered to pay a £180 criminal courts charge and £80 victim surcharge.  
(*Oxford Mail*, 13 August 2015)  
[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/13593006.Scales\\_of\\_Justice\\_17\\_cases\\_heard\\_at\\_Oxford\\_and\\_Banbury\\_Magistrates\\_Court/](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/13593006.Scales_of_Justice_17_cases_heard_at_Oxford_and_Banbury_Magistrates_Court/)



- A 45-year-old man admitted stealing a £6 pair of shoes and committing a further offence while subject to a conditional discharge. He was fined £35 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and £20 victim surcharge. (*Lincolnshire Echo*, 17 August 2015)

<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/courts-Lincolnshire/story-27603418-detail/story.html>
- A 44-year-old man who stole two packets of washing powder, worth £15.98, from a store in Lancing, West Sussex, was fined £35 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge. (*Worthing Herald*, 17 August 2015)

<http://www.worthingherald.co.uk/news/local/worthing-and-chichester-court-results-1-6907986>
- A 34-year-old man who stole three bottles of baby milk from a supermarket in Derby, Derbyshire, was given a six-week community order with curfew and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £60 victim surcharge. (*Derby Telegraph*, 18 August 2015)

<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Named-shamed-s-Derbyshire-courts/story-27628160-detail/story.html>
- A 22-year-old man from Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, was conditionally discharged for six months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and a £15 victim surcharge for damaging a kitchen door. No order was made for costs due to his lack of means. (*Nottingham Post*, 18 August 2015)

<http://www.nottinghampost.com/dock-Cases-dealt-Nottingham-Magistrates-Court/story-27623678-detail/story.html>
- A 30-year-old homeless man appeared before magistrates in Coventry, Warwickshire, and admitted resisting arrest. He was conditionally discharged for 12 months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and a £15 victim surcharge. (*Coventry Telegraph*, 20 August 2015)

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/coventry-magistrates-court-man-jailed-9878738>
- A 38-year-old homeless man admitted stealing a pair of children's shoes, worth £30, from a shop in Banbury, Oxfordshire. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal court charge, £20 costs and a £15 victim surcharge. (*Witney Gazette*, 20 August 2015)

[http://www.witneygazette.co.uk/news/13613829.Scales\\_of\\_Justice\\_Banbury\\_Magistrates\\_Court\\_hearings\\_and\\_verdicts/](http://www.witneygazette.co.uk/news/13613829.Scales_of_Justice_Banbury_Magistrates_Court_hearings_and_verdicts/)

- A 28-year-old man from Chatham, Kent, admitted causing criminal damage to a window, which cost £20 to repair. Magistrates sentenced him to six days' imprisonment, but the offence occurred during the operational period of a suspended sentence so the overall length of his sentence was 34 days. He was ordered to pay a £150 criminal court charge, £85 costs, £20 compensation and an £80 victim surcharge.  
(*Maidstone and Medway News*, 20 August 2015)  
<http://www.maidstoneandmedwaynews.co.uk/NAMED-SHAMED-Medway-criminals-convicted-month/story-27646553-detail/story.html>
- A 38-year-old man admitted stealing two bottles of wine, worth £14 in total, from a shop in Banbury, Oxfordshire, whilst subject to an order of conditional discharge. He was fined a total of £105 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £20 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Witney Gazette*, 20 August 2015)  
[http://www.witneygazette.co.uk/news/13613829.Scales\\_of\\_Justice\\_Banbury\\_Magistrates\\_Court\\_hearings\\_and\\_verdicts/](http://www.witneygazette.co.uk/news/13613829.Scales_of_Justice_Banbury_Magistrates_Court_hearings_and_verdicts/)
- A 37-year-old man stole a lamb joint, worth £19.53, from a supermarket in Grantham, Lincolnshire. He told police that he had taken the meat to feed himself and his dog. Magistrates heard that he had referred himself to Addaction to tackle his alcohol misuse. He was fined £70 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal court charge, £85 prosecution costs and a £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Grantham Journal*, 21 August 2015)  
<http://www.granthamjournal.co.uk/news/local/grantham-court-man-stole-meat-for-himself-and-dog-1-6916284>
- A 32-year-old homeless man was fined £80 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £3.75 compensation, £45 costs and a £20 victim surcharge for stealing a bottle of cider from a shop in Harrogate, North Yorkshire.  
(*Ripon Gazette*, 21 August 2015)  
<http://www.ripongazette.co.uk/news/crime/magistrates-court-weekly-roundup-1-7420872>
- A 38-year-old man stole chocolate buttons worth £1 from a shop in Waterlooville, Hampshire. He was ordered to pay £425, including a £150 criminal courts charge.  
(*Portsmouth News*, 22 August 2015)

<http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/crime/man-must-pay-425-for-chocolate-buttons-theft-1-6918183>

- A 34-year-old homeless man stole seven packs of bacon, to the value of £7, from a supermarket in Boston, Lincolnshire. He was discharged conditionally for 12 months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and £15 victim surcharge.  
(*Boston Standard*, 25 August 2015)  
<http://www.bostonstandard.co.uk/news/local/court-results-our-weekly-register-of-boston-cases-1-6923605>
- A 41-year-old man who admitted stealing two sandwiches and a pot of fruit from a café in Oxford, Oxfordshire, was given a two-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.  
(*Oxford Times*, 27 August 2015)  
[http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/news/13628202.Scales\\_of\\_Justice\\_32\\_cases\\_heard\\_at\\_Oxford\\_and\\_Banbury\\_Magistrates\\_Court/](http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/news/13628202.Scales_of_Justice_32_cases_heard_at_Oxford_and_Banbury_Magistrates_Court/)
- A 46-year-old woman from Hull, East Yorkshire, was sent to prison for eight weeks for stealing a shirt and a pair of gold sandals from a store. She was ordered to pay a £520 criminal courts charge and an £80 victim surcharge.  
(*Hull Daily Mail*, 27 August 2015)  
<http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Woman-jailed-stealing-Matalan-Hull-court-listings/story-27685149-detail/story.html>
- A 40-year-old homeless man was jailed for four weeks for stealing meat, worth £30, from a supermarket in Hull, East Yorkshire. He was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and an £80 victim surcharge.  
(*Hull Daily Mail*, 27 August 2015)  
<http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Woman-jailed-stealing-Matalan-Hull-court-listings/story-27685149-detail/story.html>
- A judge at Truro Crown Court criticised government policy when he was forced to impose a £900 criminal courts charge on a defendant. Judge Christopher Harvey Clark QC told the defendant: “The charge has no bearing on your ability to pay. It is totally inappropriate for people of no means to have to pay this charge. It happens to be current government policy but as an independent judge I regard it as extremely unfair and although I have to impose it, I do so with immense reluctance.”  
(*West Briton*, 29 August 2015)  
<http://www.westbriton.co.uk/Judge-criticises-charges-forced-offenders/story-27689810-detail/story.html>

- A 30-year-old man from Lincoln, Lincolnshire, pleaded guilty to stealing a bottle of wine from one supermarket and a packet of fish from another. He was fined £150 and ordered to pay a £300 criminal courts charge, £40 costs, a £40 victim surcharge and £19.56 compensation.  
(*Lincolnshire Echo*, 31 August 2015)  
<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/courts-Lincolnshire/story-27688149-detail/story.html>
- A 25-year-old homeless man was jailed for 16 weeks and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge for stealing two bottles of wine from a supermarket in Derby, Derbyshire.  
(*Derby Telegraph*, 31 August 2015)  
<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Named-shamed-s-Derbyshire-s-courts/story-27704828-detail/story.html>
- A 77-year-old homeless man was conditionally discharged for 12 months after being caught stealing groceries from a supermarket and failing to surrender to the custody of the court following his release on police bail. He was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and a £15 victim surcharge.  
(*Derby Telegraph*, 1 September 2015)  
<http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Man-77-admits-shoplifting-charge/story-27709815-detail/story.html>
- A 52-year-old man from Chorley, Lancashire, breached a drinking banning order by having an “open container of alcohol in public”. He was fined £50 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Chorley Guardian*, 4 September 2015)  
<http://www.chorley-guardian.co.uk/news/local/chorley-court-listings-3rd-september-1-7441720>
- A 38-year-old man was fined £50 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and £20 victim surcharge for stealing cheese and anchovies, worth £2.64, from a supermarket in South Shields, Tyne and Wear.  
(*Shields Gazette*, 4 September 2015)  
<http://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/crime/court-round-up-normandy-cheese-theft-and-other-crimes-dealt-with-by-magistrates-1-7445069>
- A 26-year-old man from Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, who tried to kill himself by throwing himself through a car windscreen admitted causing criminal damage and possession of a Class A drug. He was given a 12-month community order and ordered to pay a £180 criminal courts charge and £425 compensation.  
(*Sunderland Echo*, 4 September 2015)

<http://www.sunderlandecho.com/news/crime/drug-abuser-threw-himself-on-windscreen-of-off-duty-cop-s-car-to-kill-himself-1-7443565>

- A 34-year-old man from Worksop, Nottinghamshire, was discharged conditionally for six months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and £4.98 compensation for stealing confectionery worth £4.98 from a shop.  
(*Worksop Guardian*, 7 September 2015)  
<http://www.worksopguardian.co.uk/news/local/court-results-worksop-and-retford-1-7447789>
- A 36-year-old man from Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, stole chocolate worth £14.25 from a supermarket. He was ordered to do 50 hours' unpaid work and was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £60 victim surcharge.  
(*Worksop Guardian*, 7 September 2015)  
<http://www.worksopguardian.co.uk/news/local/court-results-worksop-and-retford-1-7447789>
- A 35-year-old homeless man admitted stealing washing powder and groceries from a shop in Chatham, Kent. He was sentenced to 42 days in prison, suspended for 12 months, and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £80 victim surcharge, £40 costs and £7 compensation.  
(*Maidstone and Medway News*, 8 September 2015)  
<http://www.maidstoneandmedwaynews.co.uk/Shoplifters-bail-skipppers-Medway-criminals/story-27757536-detail/story.html>
- A 44-year-old man from Huncoat, Lancashire, was given a 12-month community order and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge for stealing face cream from a pharmacy.  
(*Accrington Observer*, 10 September 2015)  
<http://www.accringtonobserver.co.uk/news/local-news/before-bench-cases-heard-magistrates-10025435>
- A 28-year-old man who stole nappies from a pharmacy in Lincoln, Lincolnshire, was sent to prison for six weeks and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and an £80 victim surcharge.  
(*Lincolnshire Echo*, 12 September 2015)  
<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/courts-Lincolnshire/story-27772653-detail/story.html>
- A 47-year-old man from Lincoln, Lincolnshire, was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge after pleading guilty to placing himself "in a public place to beg or gather alms".

(*Lincolnshire Echo*, 14 September 2015)

<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/courts-Lincolnshire/story-27772664-detail/story.html>

- A 22-year-old man from Lincoln, Lincolnshire, who admitted stealing ice cream worth £1.67 from a supermarket was given a six-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge.

(*Lincolnshire Echo*, 21 September 2015)

<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/courts-Lincolnshire/story-27817610-detail/story.html>

- A 26-year-old homeless man who stole shower gel from a supermarket in Lincolnshire was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge. He was detained in the courthouse.

(*Lincolnshire Echo*, 21 September 2015)

<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/courts-Lincolnshire/story-27817610-detail/story.html>

- Magistrates in Newbury, Berkshire, decided to give an absolute discharge, rather than a conditional discharge, to a man who admitted possessing a small amount of cannabis. Imposing a conditional discharge would have required the bench to order the man to pay a criminal courts charge.

The chairman of the bench said: “That’s only the second time in 10 years I’ve done that.”

(*Newbury Today*, 21 September 2015)

<http://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/news/15827/Absolute-shambles-.html>

- A 22-year-old homeless man admitted stealing a chocolate milkshake from a supermarket in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. He was jailed for two weeks and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and £1.25 compensation.

(*Worksop Guardian*, 21 September 2015)

<http://www.worksopguardian.co.uk/news/local/worksop-and-retford-find-out-who-has-recently-appeared-before-the-courts-1-7472253>

- A 28-year-old man who admitted begging in Coventry, West Midlands, was fined £36 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and £20 victim surcharge.

(*Coventry Telegraph*, 25 September 2015)

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/scales-justice-stealing-five-bottles-10077538>

- A judge at Plymouth Crown Court branded the criminal courts charge “ridiculous” after he was told he had no choice but to order a man with mental

health problems to pay £900.

(*Plymouth Herald*, 27 September 2015)

<http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/Judge-sitting-Plymouth-calls-courts-charge/story-27876753-detail/story.html>

- A magistrate in Leicester, Leicestershire, was suspended, and subsequently resigned, after he tried to pay towards a £180 criminal courts charge imposed on a penniless man for fine-defaulting.  
(*Leicester Mercury*, 29 September 2015)  
<http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/Magistrate-suspended-trying-pay-defendant-s-court/story-27882474-detail/story.html>
- Magistrates in Newbury, Berkshire, ordered a man to remain with the precincts of the court for 45 minutes and issued no further penalty, to avoid having to impose a £150 criminal courts charge.  
(*Newbury Today*, 29 September 2015)  
<http://www.newburytoday.co.uk/news/news/15922/Magistrates-avoid-imposing-controversial-new-charge.html>
- A 30-year-old man from Hartlepool, County Durham, admitted stealing a packet of chocolate biscuits worth 70p. He was fined £15 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £40 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Hartlepool Mail*, 29 September 2015)  
<http://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/crime/court-round-up-a-75p-packet-of-biscuits-costs-thief-225-1-7485889>
- A 34-year-old man from Hartlepool, County Durham, stole a coffee jar worth £6. He was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £40 costs and £6 compensation.  
(*Hartlepool Mail*, 29 September 2015)  
<http://www.hartlepoolmail.co.uk/news/crime/court-round-up-a-75p-packet-of-biscuits-costs-thief-225-1-7485889>
- A 56-year-old woman, said to be “very ill” with a blood disorder, was ordered to pay a £180 criminal courts charge after one of her dogs bit a council worker in King’s Stanley, Gloucestershire. She was also ordered to pay £50 compensation, but magistrates refused a demand for prosecution costs and victim surcharge.

The chairman of the bench told the defendant: “In view of your means we are going to be radical. You will pay £50 compensation and £180 Criminal Courts Charge.” She said there was “good reason” not to impose a costs order or a victim surcharge.

(*Stroud Life*, 30 September 2015)

<http://www.stroudlife.co.uk/Hefty-court-charge-ill-woman-dog-bit-council/story-27898532-detail/story.html>

- A 60-year-old homeless man stole two empty liquid containers, worth £6, from a car wash in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. He was discharged conditionally for three months and ordered to pay a £180 criminal courts charge, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.  
(*Bucks Herald*, 1 October 2015)  
<http://www.bucks herald.co.uk/news/more-news/court-round-up-woman-guilty-of-religiously-aggravated-offence-at-kfc-1-6986854>
- A 29-year-old man from Chorley, Lancashire, admitted stealing a 95p bottle of milkshake and £1 worth of biscuits. He was discharged conditionally for 12 months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and £1.95 compensation.  
(*Chorley Guardian*, 1 October 2015)  
<http://www.chorley-guardian.co.uk/news/local/chorley-court-lists-1st-october-1-7491362>
- A 68-year-old man, of no fixed abode, was ordered to pay a £35 fine, £150 criminal courts charge and a £20 surcharge for using threatening, abusive words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour in Lincolnshire.  
(*Lincolnshire Echo*, 6 October 2015)  
<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/courts-Lincolnshire/story-27903148-detail/story.html>
- A 32-year-old man, who had problems with alcohol, was jailed for eight weeks for begging in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire. He was ordered to pay a £180 criminal courts charge and an £80 surcharge. The judge commented: "I have no discretion over that."  
(*Nottingham Post*, 7 October 2015)  
<http://www.nottinghampost.com/Jail-beggar-won-t-stop/story-27933874-detail/story.html>
- A 52-year-old man from Bournemouth, Dorset, admitted stealing four bottles of beer, worth £4.99, from a supermarket. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and a £20 victim surcharge.  
(*Bournemouth Daily Echo*, 13 October 2015)  
[http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/13841600.In\\_The\\_Dock\\_Nine\\_people\\_from\\_Bournemouth\\_who\\_have\\_appeared\\_in\\_court/](http://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/13841600.In_The_Dock_Nine_people_from_Bournemouth_who_have_appeared_in_court/)
- A 29-year-old man, of no fixed address, was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £35 costs and a £15 victim surcharge for stealing chicken, sausage rolls and steak, to a total



value of £10.76, from a supermarket in Boldon Colliery, Tyne and Wear.  
(*Shields Gazette*, 20 October 2015)

<http://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/crime/court-round-up-sausage-roll-thief-fined-20-times-the-cost-of-his-loot-1-7524844>

- A homeless 19-year-old man found begging in Swansea, South Wales, was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge.  
(*South Wales Evening Post*, 20 October 2015)  
<http://www.southwales-eveningpost.co.uk/Teenager-begging-desperation-Swansea-pay-150/story-28019220-detail/story.html>
- A 56-year-old man from Braintree, Essex, was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge for stealing chocolates worth £1.  
(*Essex Chronicle*, 25 October 2015)  
<http://www.essexchronicle.co.uk/Named-shamed-round-cases-heard-Essex-magistrates/story-28049697-detail/story.html>
- A 44-year-old man from Retford, Nottinghamshire, stole two litres of cider worth £2.79. He was discharged conditionally for 12 months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £85 costs, a £15 victim surcharge and £39.60 in compensation.  
(*Worksop Guardian*, 26 October 2015)  
<http://www.worksopguardian.co.uk/news/local/worksop-and-retford-court-results-1-7536815>
- A 32-year-old woman admitted persistently loitering “for the purpose of prostitution” in Coventry, Warwickshire. She received a six-month engagement and support order and was ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge.  
(*Coventry Telegraph*, 30 October 2015)  
<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/coventry-news/scales-justice-prostitute-loitering-hillfields-10340387>
- A 31-year-old woman from Worksop, Nottinghamshire, stole cakes and biscuits worth £5 from a shop. She was discharged conditionally for 18 months and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, a £15 victim surcharge and £5 in compensation.  
(*Worksop Guardian*, 2 November 2015)  
<http://www.worksopguardian.co.uk/news/local/court-results-worksop-and-retford-1-7548653>
- A solicitor told Swansea Magistrates’ Court that his client’s decision to plead guilty to a charge of being drunk and disorderly was “swayed” by the prospect of being subject to a £520 criminal courts charge. He said that it was

“debatable” whether his client’s behaviour on the night in question had amounted to being disorderly.

(*South Wales Evening Post*, 3 November 2015)

<http://www.southwales-eveningpost.co.uk/Guilty-plea-swayed-prospect-having-pay-criminal/story-28106205-detail/story.html>

- A 28-year-old man from Newcastle was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge and £15 victim surcharge for stealing a hat worth £8 from a shop.

(*Sunderland Echo*, 3 November 2015)

<http://www.sunderlandecho.com/news/crime/court-round-up-thief-pleads-guilty-to-stealing-black-fedora-hat-from-sunderland-primark-1-7550427>

- A 36-year-old man, of no fixed address, was convicted in his absence of begging in Coventry, Warwickshire. He was fined £50 and ordered to pay a £150 criminal courts charge, £135 costs, and a £20 victim surcharge.

(*Coventry Telegraph*, 3 November 2015)

<http://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/scales-justice-stealing-items-worth-10341590>