Sentencing @ a glance



PUBLIC NUISANCE

Behaviour that is disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent, and interferes (or is likely to interfere) with a member of the public peacefully passing through or enjoying a public place. Can include using offensive, obscene, indecent, abusive or threatening language.

Maximum penalty – \$3,870 fine or 6 months' imprisonment if the offence is committed within, or in the vicinity of, licenced premises. Otherwise, maximum penalty is a \$1,548 fine or 6 months' imprisonment.

ADULTS

Most common penalty:

2,043 Monetary

220 Recognisance

153 Community service

122 Convicted, not further punished

110 Wholly suspended

89 Probation

89 Imprisonment

3 Partially suspended

1 Intensive correction order

JUVENILES

Most common penalty:

67 Reprimand

21 Court diversion referral

18 Recognisance

7 Community service

5 Restorative justice order

1 Probation

In 2022-23 there were

6,855

cases involving public nuisance sentenced in court 2,949

cases where public nuisance was the most serious offence



6,043 people sentenced



average fine **\$484.42**



71.9% sentenced were male



34.2 average age



oldest sentenced was 79 years



youngest sentenced was 11 years



4.0% sentenced as a child under the Youth Justice Act 1992

Police officers can issue infringement notices for public nuisance offences, which means the person does not have to go to court if they pay the infringement amount. Officers use their discretion in deciding whether to issue an infringement notice or to instead choose the court process. The issuing of infringements is a common way of dealing with public nuisance offences. Other non-court actions include cautioning, conferencing and referral to support services.

Source: QSAC draws data from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO), Queensland Treasury (Courts Database, extracted September 2023). Data used covers the period period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Only cases that proceeded to court are included. Disclaimer: The Council makes every effort to ensure data used in Sentencing @ a glance fact sheets are accurate at the time of publishing.