



Public Interest Matrix

The table below lists some of the factors that may be relevant when considering the public interest test. It is intended to assist officers in deciding whether to further action is in the public interest, and whether a simple caution or prosecution is more appropriate.

CRITERION	PROSECUTE	OFFER CAUTION
The offence a genuine mistake or misunderstanding	No	Yes
The offence is serious and likely to result in a significant sentence	Yes	No
A nominal penalty is likely	No	Yes
The offence is stale	No	Yes
The offender is old or infirm	No	Yes
The offender is ill or suffering from stress	No	Yes
Violence is involved	Yes	No
There is a history of offending	Yes	No
The offender was a ringleader	Yes	No
The offence was premeditated	Yes	No
The offender is taking steps to prevent a recurrence	No	Yes
The offence affected a vulnerable victim	Yes	No
The offence is motivated by discrimination	Yes	No
The offence is widespread in the area	Yes	No
The case is likely to establish a legal precedent	Yes	No
The offender has offered a reasonable explanation	No	Yes
The offender has put right any loss or damage	No	Yes
The offence was committed whilst the offender was subject to a court order	Yes	No
The offender has relevant previous convictions	Yes	No
The offender was in a position of authority or trust	Yes	No
The offence was committed against a public servant	Yes	No
The offence caused little or no harm	No	Yes
The offence was a minor misjudgement	No	Yes