



Mobile phones and the law^o

Make the right call

Go further



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There is a time and a place for using a mobile device. It's definitely not behind the wheel. Your vehicle should not be used as a mobile office.

1. Using a hand-held phone (or similar devices*) is a CRIMINAL OFFENCE.
2. *Similar devices include Smartphones, tablets, laptops or PDAs... indeed any device that can send or receive spoken / written messages, or even still / moving images and / or that can go online.
3. Whilst driving you can't: make or receive calls, send or receive text / picture messages, access the internet. And you can't do any of these whilst stopped at traffic lights or when queuing in traffic.
4. Employers can be prosecuted if they ask their employees to make or receive calls while driving.
5. Hands-free phones or kits aren't necessarily the answer... if you're engaged on a call chances are you're not paying sufficient attention to the road. If this causes you to lose control at the wheel you are at risk of a fixed penalty or even prosecution.
6. Research has proven that mobile phones are a serious distraction when driving. The likelihood of having an accident is four times higher.
7. Your reaction times are significantly worse than someone driving at the legal alcohol limit.
8. Recent surveys revealed that almost twice as many van and lorry drivers than car drivers are spotted using hand-held or hands-free phones while driving.
9. There's an automatic fixed penalty for using a mobile phone or similar device while driving. You'll have to pay £60 and you'll get three penalty points on your license.
10. Your case may go to court. That could mean disqualification from driving, a fine of £1,000, or £2,500 if you're driving of a bus or goods vehicle. That might leave you jobless as well as speechless...

Strategies for Staying Safe... think of Number 1.

Voicemail: get the message.

Switch off your mobile phone and let your calls go directly to voicemail.

Change your message to inform callers that you are unavailable to speak to them as you may be driving and you'll return their call when you next take a break.

Inform: give the right message.

If you're an employer consider a policy at work that 'bans' in-vehicle mobile phone use. Lead by example and ensure managers don't make or receive calls while driving.

If you provide mobile devices for work remind your people that they're primarily intended for emergency use and when pulled-over.

Place: everything has one

Drivers should plan journeys so they include rest stops when messages can be checked and calls returned. Leave sufficient time for travel, don't expect too much of your drivers.

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