

### **Using a Phone, Sat Nav or Other Device When Driving**

On 25 March 2022, the law on people using their mobile phones while driving in Great Britain became stricter. The law was updated in order to keep up with technology - mobile devices had become capable of performing many more tasks beyond 'interactive communication'.

It is illegal to hold and use a phone, sat nav, tablet, or any device that can send or receive data, while driving. This means you must not use a device in your hand for any reason, whether online or offline. For example, you must not text, make calls, take photos or videos, or browse the web.

The law still applies to you if you are:

- stopped at traffic lights
- queuing in traffic
- supervising a learner driver
- driving a car that turns off the engine when you stop moving
- holding and using a device that's offline or in flight mode

### **Exceptions**

You can use a device held in your hand if:

- you need to call 999 or 112 in an emergency and it's unsafe or impractical to stop
- you are safely parked
- you are making a contactless payment in a vehicle that is not moving, for example at a drive-through restaurant
- you are using the device to park your vehicle remotely

### **Using devices hands-free**

You can use devices with hands-free access, as long as you do not hold them at any time during usage. Hands-free access means using, for example:

- a Bluetooth headset
- voice command
- a dashboard holder or mat
- a windscreen mount
- a built-in sat nav

The device must not block your view of the road and traffic ahead.

### **Staying in full control of your vehicle**

You must stay in full control of your vehicle at all times. The Police can stop you if they think you are not in control because you are distracted, and you can be prosecuted.

### **Penalties**

You can get 6 penalty points and a £200 fine if you hold and use a phone, sat nav, tablet, or any device that can send and receive data while driving. You will also lose your licence if you passed your

driving test in the last 2 years. You can get 3 penalty points if you do not have a full view of the road and traffic ahead or proper control of the vehicle. You can also be taken to Court where you can:

- be banned from driving
- get a maximum fine of £1,000 (£2,500 if you're driving a lorry or bus)