

Submission
No 12

DRIVER AND ROAD USER DISTRACTION

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As a 73 year old grandmother who has been driving every day for 54 years, I respectfully wish to submit the following comments on the use (or not) of mobile phones when behind the wheel of a car.

1. It is impossible to stop people answering their mobiles when driving.

In these days of instant communication, everyone I know answers their phone if it rings. When I do it, I always try to pull over and park. However this is not always possible. To try to enforce the current law every second car would have to have a policeman on board.

2. It is much more of a distraction to text than to answer a mobile.

I can't stress this point enough. If young people are worried about answering their mobiles (especially if they have a licence points deficiency) they will simply send a text message from a mobile in their lap which requires them to **take their eyes completely off the road**. I know that this is true as I have an extended family of four children and seven grandchildren including two teenage drivers. Sadly we have recently lost a young professional woman from our friends who did just this recently and was wiped out and killed by a truck going the other way.

3. Experienced drivers can answer a phone and still be able to drive efficiently.

I think that the Authorities should be more pragmatic about this problem. Instead of prohibition, which simply has not worked, driver education should include an emphasis that quick conversations could occur only when necessary. I do assure you that there are far more distracting things for drivers in cars than mobile calls, crying children, loud music, animals- just to name a few.

Kind regards,
Shirley Sheppard