



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **BAN ON USE OF MOBILE PHONE WHILST DRIVING A VEHICLE**

The Government is today publishing Regulations that will ban the use of mobile phones whilst driving a vehicle. Driving while using a hand-held mobile phone will soon be a specific offence. This law will come into effect as from 1 July 2010.

Offenders will be subject to a fine, in the case of a first offence, of £100 and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction to a fine of £200 or to three months imprisonment.

Research has demonstrated that if you drive and use a mobile phone you are four times more likely to have an accident. Hands-free calls are also distracting and drivers should be aware that they still risk prosecution for failing to have proper control of their vehicle, for careless or even reckless driving if use of a phone affects their driving in this way.

The Government will be undertaking a publicity campaign in conjunction with the Royal Gibraltar Police to raise the level of public awareness. The Government's website will also include some frequently asked questions and their answers.

Commenting on this legislation, the Minister for Transport, the Hon J J Holliday said:

"Driving whilst using a mobile phone is dangerous. Any driver will be distracted by a phone call or text message. It affects the ability to concentrate and anticipate the road ahead, putting the driver and other road users at risk. The Government's decision to introduce this new offence will make the roads safer for use. Missing a call won't kill you - an accident quite possibly could."