



## ADVANCED ACCESS PLATFORMS - STAND ALONE MOBILE PHONE POLICY

The law regarding the use of mobile phones whilst driving a vehicle changed on December 1, 2003. From that point on it is an offence to speak or listen to a phone call whilst the driver is holding a handset or to use any device interactively to access any sort of data. It is also illegal to merely hold a handset whilst driving or make a call with a hand-held phone whilst stationary e.g. at traffic lights, unless it is to alert the emergency services for genuine reasons.

This legislation does not supersede that which is already in place. Drivers can already be prosecuted for failing to have proper control of their vehicles, if it is believed that the distraction of being engaged in ANY form of phone call has been a contributory factor to a crash.

Although the latest legislation does not effectively outlaw the use of all mobile phones whilst on the move, research has conclusively proved that the use of mobile phones of any sort whilst driving increases risk dramatically. In fact, the use of a mobile phone whilst driving has been proved to be the equivalent of being four times in excess of the UK drink drive limit and so we would always recommend that phones are switched off whilst at the wheel. It is far safer to make use of the voicemail facility, and, once you have found a safe place to park, retrieve the message.

**John Corcoran**  
Managing Director

