

Mobile Phone Day of Action - Thursday 25th February 2010 Results**Motorists are still failing to recognise the dangers of using a mobile phone whilst driving**

Despite safety warnings, motorists across Scotland are still failing to recognise the dangers of using a mobile phone whilst driving.

The 'Mobile Phone day of Action' led by the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) ran over a 24-hour period on the 25th February 2010 and involved all eight of the country's police forces.

Held around the fourth anniversary of the offence being categorised as endorsable, the campaign is designed to raise the motorist's awareness of the dangers using a mobile phone whilst driving.

Research has shown that reaction times are significantly impaired if driving and phoning simultaneously. Even when using a hands-free device, concentration levels can be detrimentally affected. Compelling evidence shows that drivers using mobile phones are four times more likely to be involved in a road crash.

Despite this, during this year's day of action, a total of 180 motorists breached the law in relation to the use of mobile phones which is an increase on last year's day of action which saw 171 motorists caught. Every driver who uses their phone whilst driving is risking their own life and the lives of others. In the Lothian and Borders area a 39 year old HGV driver was caught reading a text message whilst driving through central Edinburgh. In Strathclyde a driver who already had 9 points on his license was reported for using a hand held mobile phone whilst driving.

Chief Superintendent Charlie Common from Lothian and Borders Police who is the ACPOS lead on Casualty Reduction said:

"The number of motorists who continue to use their mobile phone whilst driving is extremely disappointing. With evidence that using a phone distracts the driver and reduces their control of the vehicle, these results could have had serious consequences.

"Knowing first hand the devastation which road traffic accidents have on families, we are committed to stopping those motorists who continue to ignore the safety warnings and risk their life and the lives of others. My message is clear; there is no phone call that is worth risking a life for."

NATIONAL RETURN

	2009	2010
Central	28	16
D&G	8	8
Fife	1	3
Grampian	10	1
L&B	31	39
Northern	14	5
Strathclyde	58	103
Tayside	21	5