
"Cognitive distraction" and "inattention blindness" among drivers

1 message

Colin Burges <teignrail@gmail.com>

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To: MARTIN Richard 91690 <Richard.MARTIN@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk>



Dear Mr. Martin,

The Police and Crime Commissioner, having led on road safety, is probably aware of the work of Dr. Gemma Briggs on "Driving Danger."

Until I followed the link in my R.S.S.B. bulletin, shamefully I was unaware of Dr. Briggs's studies, but I am now better informed.

It was not surprising to hear that 3% of drivers admit to using hand-held phones on every journey. As a cyclist trying to make eye-contact with motorists, often I see their hands by their ears, warning me to be ready for a possible dangerous manoeuvre.

Drivers who ignore the law and continue to use their hand-held phones, in completing their journeys without incident and thinking themselves safe, are much the same as those who drink and drive but somehow always get home.

Whilst the danger of drivers' distraction is undoubtedly the greatest worry for vulnerable road users, it ought to be a concern for the ordinary motorist that lorry drivers make numerous telephone calls, often in the thick of traffic. You will know that, like all drivers, they are four times more likely to be involved in a crash when using a phone, even a hands-free one.

If Mrs. Hernandez is not familiar with Dr. Briggs's campaign and you think it may assist in the pursuit of "Vision Zero," perhaps you could draw the Commissioner's attention to "Distracted Driving."

<https://www.rssb.co.uk/safety-and-health/guidance-and-good-practice/managing-occupational-road-risk/in-the-headlights---managing-road-risk>

Network Rail has long prohibited the use of hands-free telephones by its staff unless drivers have parked their vehicles, an example of rail safety being applied to the road system.

With poor compliance and little enforcement of the existing law, and cars being fitted with more distracting gadgets, it is unlikely that road safety will improve.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Burges