

AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY



Keeper Name
Address line 1
Address Line 2
Address Line 3
Postcode

Avon and Somerset Constabulary
Road Safety Support Unit
PO BOX 213
BRISTOL
BS20 1DR

Ref:
Date:

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you as we have been sent video footage of your vehicle by another road user who is concerned about the standard of driving.

It has been brought to our attention that on 4th November 2020 at 08.56 hrs, the driver of Black Audi, registration AA11 ABC, was seen using a hand-held mobile telephone whilst in charge of the vehicle on The Avenue, Bristol. It is illegal to use a hand-held mobile telephone whilst driving, and most drivers follow this law. The small number of people who use their telephones when driving are obviously visible to other road users, and we receive many complaints from the public about this behaviour.

Holding a telephone call, whether hand-held or hands-free, can affect your driving as much as taking alcohol. Texting, dialling or otherwise looking at your phone's screen are also extremely distracting and increase your chances of crashing.

At present, the only way to legally use a mobile telephone whilst driving is with a completely hands-free system such as a Bluetooth handset that can be activated with voice commands. However, scientific research shows that this is still not safe. Speaking to somebody on the phone is more distracting than speaking to somebody who is inside your car, and drivers using hands-free phones are just as likely to crash as drivers using hand-held phones. As such, the law is currently being updated to ban hands-free calls in the same way that all other forms of phone use are already banned. Even before this ban arrives, the police can stop you if they think you are not in control because you are distracted and this could lead to prosecution.

The only times you can use a hand-held phone is when you are safely parked, or if you need to call 999 in an emergency and it is unsafe or impractical to stop.

On this occasion, I do not intend to proceed with a prosecution. However, I would like to remind you to ensure that, when driving, you are fully in charge of the vehicle. **The penalties for this offence can be 6 penalty points and a £200 fine.** Should you be taken to court, you may be banned from driving and receive the maximum fine of £1,000. These penalties are likely to increase your insurance costs dramatically. If this vehicle comes to our attention again, further action may be taken.

If you were not the driver at the time of this incident, then you must share this information with the driver.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Bullock
Team Leader
Road Safety Support Unit

Follow us on Twitter: [@ASPRoadSafety](https://twitter.com/ASPRoadSafety)
www.avonandsomerset.police.uk