

Footage shows lorry driver with a mobile phone to each ear on motorway ahead of South West road safety initiative

Startling footage, captured on the M4 earlier this year, shows an [HGV driver holding two mobile phones, one to each ear](#).

But what he didn't realise was the vehicle travelling alongside was an unmarked National Highways 'HGV cab' – and there were two police officers inside.

The footage, taken between junctions 18 and 17 by Avon and Somerset Police, captures one of over 21,000 offences recorded by officers in the Operation Tramline HGV cabs since the national safety initiative was launched by National Highways, formerly Highways England.

The National Highways HGV cabs are now being used as part of a multi-agency fortnight of action along the M4 and M5, taking place from Monday 13 September to Sunday 26 September, which aims to reduce the number of incidents on the motorways and highlight the risks of dangerous driving.

Elsewhere in the South West, a truck driver who initially provided false details to Devon and Cornwall Police during an operation last month was later identified as disqualified and arrested, while Wiltshire Police caught a motorist speeding at 121mph along the M4 during a four-day operation earlier this year.

Devon and Cornwall Police's July operation recorded:

- 7 people driving without a seat belt
- 15 driving while using a mobile phone at the wheel
- 2 positive cases of drug driving
- 66 offences in total, including 10 speeding and 4 with no insurance.

In just four days, the Wiltshire force dealt with drivers for the following offences:

- 19 driving without a seat belt
- 8 driving while using a mobile phone at the wheel
- 1 arrest for possession of Class B drugs
- 6 Traffic Offence Reports for speeding, with 121mph being the fastest

A Gloucestershire Police operation in May saw:

- 44 driving without a seat belt
- 19 driving while using a mobile phone at the wheel
- 8 Traffic Offence Reports for speeding

- 8 other misdemeanours, including two insecure loads and one of driving with no insurance

Avon and Somerset Police, meanwhile, have utilised the HGV cab over four weeks this year, and recorded the following offences in that time:

- 186 driving without a seat belt
- 26 driving while using a mobile phone at the wheel
- 17 Traffic Offence Reports for speeding
- 129 other offences, including insecure loads and driving without due care and attention

Under the banner of Operation Peninsula, the campaign will be operating along the M4 between junctions 14 and 18, and the M5 from junction 8 to junction 31.

National Highways deals with countless incidents on the M5 and M4 motorways, and in the latest figures, the company attended a large number of traffic collisions – 526 on the M4 and 821 on the M5 in 2019. Since the launch of Operation Tramline in 2015, more than 21,600 offences have been recorded on the National Highways motorway network. The most common offences have included:

- using a mobile phone – 6,073
- not wearing a seatbelt – 6,253
- not in proper control of vehicle – 1,501
- speeding – 1,199

In total, 19,564 vehicles have been stopped in Operation Tramline between July 2015 and April 2021. In that time, a number of bizarre and dangerous behaviours have been spotted:

- a driver steering a lorry with his knees while eating lunch on his lap and using a phone in the East Midlands
- in West Mercia, a driver eating lasagne with a knife and fork while driving along a motorway
- a HGV driver boiling a kettle on the dashboard and another eating pickled gherkins from a jar with his elbows on the steering wheel in Surrey

Nicholas Reed, National Highways' Road Safety Lead for the South West, said:

The HGV cabs are an important part of our commitment to tackling unsafe driving and those who take unnecessary risks with their own safety and that of others on the road.

The number of people found using their mobile phone while driving is quite alarming. You are four times more likely to be in a crash if you use your phone and, if caught, face a £200 fine and six points on your licence.

Through this fortnight of action on the M5 and M4 we want to make

all of our roads safer by raising awareness and encouraging motorists to consider their driving behaviour.

From their elevated viewpoint in the unmarked HGV cabs, police officers are able to spot people driving dangerously – whatever vehicle they may be in.

Police patrol motorways and major A roads in National Highways HGV cabs

Consequences for the drivers range from warnings to fixed penalty notices, court summons or even arrest.

In addition to the operational patrols, partners taking part in Operation Peninsula will be present at motorway services along the M5 and M4, offering advice to drivers such as what to do in a breakdown and ensuring load safety.

National Highways' traffic officers will be providing free tyre checks and safety tips, and vehicle checks will also be carried out by the DVSA (Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency) at various locations along the M5 and M4.

Four regional forces are taking part in Operation Peninsula – Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Avon and Somerset and Devon and Cornwall – and the Devon and Somerset Fire Service will also be playing a part during the road safety fortnight.

At Taunton Deane Services on Friday, 17th September, Avon and Somerset Police will also be joining forces with Somerset Council, the DVSA, Devon and Somerset Fire Service and National Highways at a 'Fit for the Road' event.

Caroline Hicks, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency's (DVSA) Head of Regulatory Services & Transformation, added:

We will be conducting our vital enforcement work during this operation across the South West, as we do throughout the year, ensuring commercial vehicles are both roadworthy and safe.

We are determined to protect the public from dangerous drivers and vehicles on UK roads and ensure that non-compliance, whether intentional or not, does not endanger the public.

We are delighted to be a part of this key road safety exercise alongside our partners.

And Nina Day from the Health and Safety Executive's Transport Sector, said:

Employers must ensure that drivers, other workers, and members of the public are kept safe when vehicles are used for work.

There are legal requirements for employers to have robust

procedures in place to manage vehicle safety, including ensuring suitable procedures are in place, providing workers with appropriate training and equipment, maintaining equipment and vehicles, and supporting drivers when they raise concerns.

HSE works closely with our partner agencies to help vehicle operators and load consignors understand their legal responsibilities.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the National Highways customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the National Highways press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

Foreign flagged ships detained in the UK during August 2021

During August, there were five new detentions of foreign flagged vessels in a UK port.

1. In response to one of the recommendations of Lord Donaldson's inquiry into the prevention of pollution from merchant shipping, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) publishes details of the foreign flagged vessels detained in UK ports each month.
2. The UK is part of a regional agreement on port state control known as the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MOU) and information on all ships that are inspected is held centrally in an electronic database known as THETIS. This allows the ships with a high risk rating and poor detention records to be targeted for future inspection.
3. Inspections of foreign flagged ships in UK ports are undertaken by surveyors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. When a ship is found to be not in compliance with applicable convention requirements, a deficiency may be raised. If any of their deficiencies are so serious, they have to be rectified before departure, then the ship will be

detained.

4. All deficiencies should be rectified before departure.

Notes on the list of detentions:

- Full details of the ship: The accompanying detention list shows ship's International Maritime Organisation (IMO) number which does not change throughout the ship's life and uniquely identifies it. It also shows the ship's name and flag state at the time of its inspection.
- Company: The company shown in the vessel's Safety Management Certificate (SMC) or if there is no SMC, then the party otherwise believed to be responsible for the operation of the ship at the time of inspection.
- Classification society: The list shows the classification society responsible for classification of the ship only.
- Recognised organisation: Responsible for conducting the statutory surveys and issuing statutory certificates on behalf of the flag state.
- White (WL), grey (GL) and black lists (BL) are issued by the Paris MoU on 01 July each year and shows the performance of flag state.
- Deficiencies: The deficiencies listed are the ones which were detainable. Further details of other deficiencies can be provided on request.

SHIPS DETAINED IN AUGUST 2021

Vessel Name: DEEPSEA WORKER

GT: 3345

IMO: 7905285

Flag: St Vincent and the Grenadines (grey list)

Company: Seaway Offshore LLC

Classification society: DNV

Recognised organisation: DNV

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: International Naval Surveys Bureau

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: International Naval Surveys Bureau

Date and place of detention: 5th July 2021 at Sunderland

Summary: Fifteen deficiencies with two grounds for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
15150 – ISM	Not as required	Yes
11108 – Inflatable liferafts	Expired	Yes

This vessel was released 3rd August 2021

Vessel Name: PROMISE 3

GT: 22927

IMO: 9571404

Flag: Hong Kong (white list)

Company: STX Marine Services Co Ltd

Classification society: Korean Register of Shipping

Recognised organisation: Korean Register of Shipping

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: Korean Register of Shipping

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: Korean Register of Shipping

Date and place of detention: 8th August 2021 at Newport

Summary: Twenty-seven deficiencies with one ground for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
15150 – ISM	Not as required	Yes

This vessel was released 13th August 2021

Vessel Name: JIN HAO

GT: 32964

IMO: 9603702

Flag: Hong Kong (white list)

Company: Bernhard Schulte-CHR

Classification society: China Classification Society

Recognised organisation: China Classification Society

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: DNV GL AS

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: Lloyds Register

Date and place of detention: 9th August 2021 at Londonderry

Summary: Nine deficiencies with one ground for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
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04114 – Emergency source of power – Not as required Yes
Emergency generator

This vessel was released 21st August 2021

Vessel Name: WIND OF HOPE

GT: 6499

IMO: 9869045

Flag: France (white list)

Company: Louis Drefus Armateurs SAS

Classification society: BV

Recognised organisation: BV

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: N/A

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: N/A

Date and place of detention: 21st August 2021 at Grimsby

Summary: Nine deficiencies with two grounds for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
05105 – MF/HF Radio Installation	Not as required	Yes
15150 – ISM	Not as required	Yes

This vessel was released 27th August 2021

Vessel Name: SEA KESTREL

GT: 1382

IMO: 9006459

Flag: Barbados (white list)

Company: Torbulk Ltd

Classification society: RINA

Recognised organisation: RINA

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: RINA

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: RINA

Date and place of detention: 30th August 2021 at Shoreham-By-Sea

Summary: Twelve deficiencies with two grounds for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
10135 – Monitoring of voyage or passage plan	Not as required	Yes
10127 – Voyage or passage plan	Not as required	Yes

This vessel was still detained 31st August 2021

DETENTIONS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS

Vessel Name: SERDIKA

GT: 10220

IMO: 9132480

Flag: Belize (black list)

Company: Credo-plus Navigation Ltd

Classification society: Russian Maritime Register of Shipping

Recognised organisation: Russian Maritime Register of Shipping

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: DNV-GL

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: DNV-GL

Date and place of detention: 20th July 2021 at Sunderland

Summary: Twenty-two deficiencies with two grounds for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
07106 – Fire detection and alarm systems	Inoperative	Yes
07125 – Evaluation of crew performance	Lack of familiarity	Yes

This vessel was released 3rd August 2021

Vessel Name: POSEIDON

GT: 1412

IMO: 7363217

Flag: Iceland (White list)

Company: Neptune EHF

Classification society: NA

Recognised organisation: NA

Recognised organisation for ISM Doc: DNV-GL

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: N/A (SMC issued by Flag)

Date and place of detention: 19th July 2018 at Hull

Summary: Ten deficiencies with two grounds for detention

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
02106 – Hull damage impairing seaworthiness	Holed	Yes
07113 – Fire Pumps	Insufficient Pressure	Yes

This vessel was still detained on 31st August 2021

Vessel Name: TECOIL POLARIS

GT: 1814

IMO No: 8883290

Flag: Russian Federation (Grey list)

Company: Tecoil Shipping Ltd

Classification society: RMRS

Recognised organisation: RMRS

Recognised organisation for ISM DOC: RMRS

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: RMRS

Date and place of detention: 6th June 2018 at Immingham

Summary: Twenty-seven deficiencies with six grounds for detentions

Defective item	Nature of defect	Ground for Detention
10104 – Gyro compass	Inoperative	Yes
10127 – Voyage or passage plan	Not as required	Yes
15150 – ISM	Not as required	Yes
11104 – Rescue boats	Not properly maintained	Yes
11101 – Lifeboats	Not ready for use	Yes
01117 – International Oil Pollution Prevention (IOPP)	Invalid	Yes

This vessel was still detained on 31st August 2021

Vessel Name: CIEN PORCIENTO (General Cargo)

GT: 106.

IMO No: 8944446.

Flag: Unregistered.

Company: Open Window Inc.

Classification society: Unclassed.

Recognised organisation: Not applicable.

Recognised organisation for ISM DOC: Not applicable.

Recognised organisation for ISM SMC: Not applicable

Date and place of detention: 4 March 2010, Lowestoft

Summary: Thirty deficiencies including seven grounds for detention

This vessel was still detained on 31st August 2021

Notes to Editors

- The MCA is a partner in the Sea Vision UK campaign to raise awareness and understanding of the sea and maritime activities. Sea Vision promotes the importance and economic value of the sector and works to highlight the exciting range of activities and career opportunities available to young people within the UK growing maritime sector.

- Follow us on Twitter: @MCA_media

For further information please contact Maritime and Coastguard Agency Press Office, on: +44 (0) 2380 329 401 Press releases and further information about the agency is available [here](#).

[Five UK companies have progressed through to the next phase of a £5.5 million radioactive waste segregation competition.](#)



Innovative techniques and technology to tackle this 'rad-waste' challenge

The first phase of the competition, run in partnership with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), Magnox Ltd, Sellafield Ltd and Innovate UK, asked companies to submit proposals on how they would bring together innovative techniques and technology to tackle this 'rad-waste' challenge.

Five companies and their diverse consortia have now been awarded contracts, each worth up to £900k, to build demonstrators for their ideas. They will be set to work on a mixed pile of non-radioactive waste, with the aim of proving they can increase recycling rates, reduce the number of waste containers sent for disposal and reduce the hazard to people and the environment.

The NDA's Head of Innovation, Sara Huntingdon, said:

We're extremely impressed with the calibre of proposals received from the supply chain, and I am delighted that we've been able to increase the number of companies we're taking through to the next phase.

We had originally planned to fund three demonstrators but, because we received such a broad range of ideas which could benefit our sites in future, we're taking more forwards into phase two. We have increased the total value of the competition to £5.5 million, which really demonstrates our ongoing commitment to research and development. This is good news for the supply chain, and it gives us access to more innovative techniques and approaches that could help deliver the NDA's mission safer, faster and in a way that costs less in the future.

Roger Townsend, Innovation Lead, Energy Clean Growth and Infrastructure Lead at Innovate UK, said:

We are delighted to be working again with the NDA to help drive innovation into the nuclear decommissioning supply chain and deliver things faster, cheaper and safer. The quality of the phase

schools and education centres around Ashgabat.

The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire action ahead of COP26. The decisions we make now will directly impact our ability to safeguard the environment for future generations and, by working together on climate action. We hope that this book, which has already gained international popularity, will be of interest to both young people and adults in Turkmenistan, as a valuable resource around the shared challenges of climate change and an educational tool that can help develop English language skills.

These beautifully illustrated books explain the history, dangers and problems of global warming, the causes and consequences of climate disruption, heat waves, floods and other extreme weather conditions in an accessible and interesting way. They illustrate the dangers that climate change poses to our environment, and solutions of the future – sustainable agriculture, new green technologies and other ways that we tackle this most pressing of global issues, together.

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[New chief executive appointed for VMD](#)

News story

Abigail Seager has been appointed as Defra's new Chief Executive of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.



Photo of Abigail Seager

The VMD announced today that Abigail Seager has been appointed new CEO. An experienced Senior Civil Servant, Abi will succeed Professor Pete Borriello,

who is retiring after ten years in the post.

Abi was appointed VMD's Director of the Authorisations in May 2018 and previously held other leading roles in the VMD as Head of the EU Exit and International Office and Head of the General Assessment and Imports Team.

I'm very excited about this appointment" said David Kennedy, Defra's Director General for Food, Farming and Biosecurity – "Abi is incredibly well placed to lead the organisation in the next phase. I look forward to working closely with Abi and VMD as they ensure veterinary medicines continue to be safe, together with growing their international business and leading our work on AMR

Before joining the VMD, Abi held roles in Defra and the Ministry of Justice spanning policy, strategy and operational delivery, including delivery of major programmes. Abi's scientific background is in the field of microbiology and genetics.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate is an executive agency of Defra and is responsible for ensuring the safe and effective use of veterinary medicinal products to protect public health, animal health, and the environment.

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