

# Jag that rings a bell to warn driver of a cyclist

By **Ray Massey**  
Transport Editor

DRIVERS often feel they need eyes in the back of their heads to see the growing number of bikes weaving their way through the traffic.

And cyclists often wonder whether the motorist in the car next to them has even spotted them.

Now Jaguar is attempting to address this problem – and the growing toll of deaths and injuries caused by collisions between cars and bikes.

The company is fitting a groundbreaking Bike Sense safety system into new Jaguars, Land Rovers and Range Rovers within two years.

The system produces a range of alerts to tell drivers if a cyclist is getting too close.

Using the traditional 'ring ring' of the bicycle bell, a warning will sound inside the car from the direction in which the bike is approaching. It will also 'tap' the driver on the right or left shoulder using a device that makes the seat cushion inflate and contract.

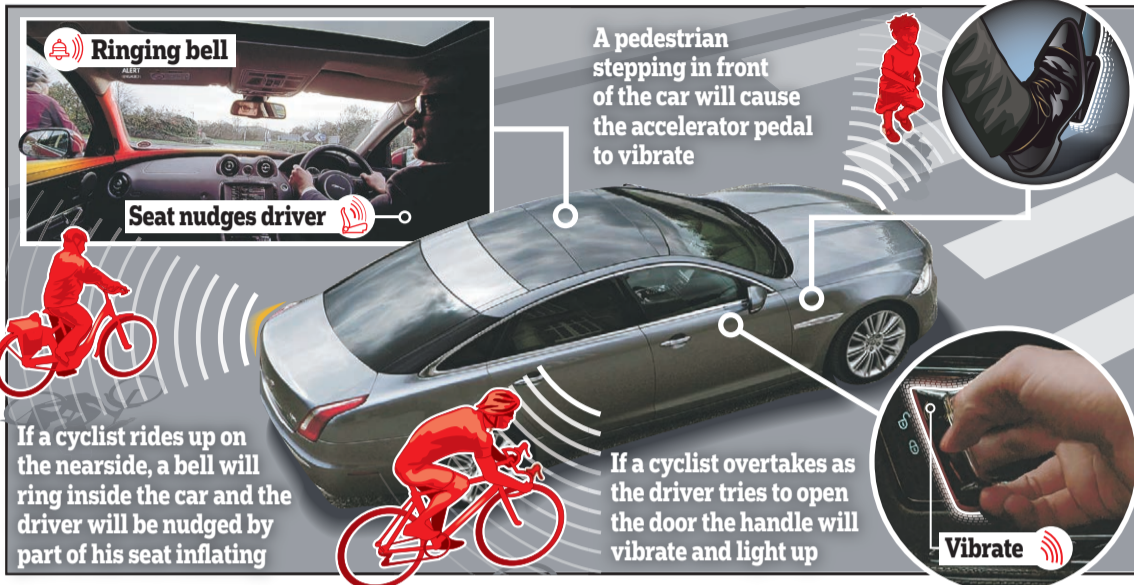
Even the door handles of the car will 'buzz' to prevent doors being opened into the path of bikes which are alongside.

The accelerator pedal will vibrate if moving the car would cause an accident.

The aim of the system, says Jaguar, is to 'engage drivers' natural instincts' to help motorists be more alert to cyclists who may be pedalling too close to danger.

It will also help spot motorcyclists – with a separate motor bike horn warning.

Around 19,000 cyclists are killed or injured on UK roads each year. Motorists can easily risk hitting a



cyclist undercutting on the left. Even minor accidents can lead to disputes, confrontation, personal injury claims and counter claims.

Many cyclists now wear helmet-mounted cameras and film their

## 'Potential hazard'

journeys to use as evidence in the event of a collision – and some motorists are fitting cameras to their windscreens.

Regardless of who is at fault, it is usually the cyclist who comes off worst in any encounter with a car.

And no driver wants a seriously or fatally injured cyclist on their conscience.

A Jaguar Land Rover spokesman said: 'Sensors on the car will detect when another road user is approaching and identify it as bicycle or motorbike. It will then make the driver aware of the potential hazard before the driver sees it.'

But instead of using a generic warning symbol or sound, which takes time for the driver's brain to process, the system uses lights and sounds that the driver instinctively associates with bicycles.

The spokesman explained the expanding and contracting seat: 'If a bicycle or motorbike is coming

up the road behind the car, Bike Sense will detect if it is overtaking or coming past the vehicle on the inside.

'The top of the car seat will then extend to "tap" the driver on the left or right shoulder. The idea is that the driver will then instinctively look over that shoulder to identify the potential hazard.'

British Cycling's campaign manager Martin Key said: 'We would support any move by manufacturers to improve cyclists' safety.'

Official statistics show that in the 12 months to June the number of cyclists killed or seriously injured rose 10 per cent.

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## War hero, 89, is kept on an A&E trolley for 34 hours

Daily Mail Reporter

A DECORATED war hero was kept on a hospital trolley in A&E for 34 hours – an indignity that came after a five-day wait to see his GP. David Walters, 89, couldn't get a GP appointment after developing a temperature and becoming delirious.

His family called for an ambulance – and after a five-hour wait, he was taken to A&E.

But Mr Walters, pictured, stayed on the trolley waiting for a bed at the scandal-hit Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, South Wales, for 34 hours.

The ex-Royal Navy seaman's ordeal came just weeks after he was awarded the Ushakov Medal by Russia for his bravery on the Arctic convoys in the Second World War.

Granddaughter Jodie Rowlands said: 'He was 34 hours on a trolley, and he received no tests or treatment, other than being given some paracetamol.'

Mr Walters, of Cymmer, Swansea, has since been released from hospital. The hospital is at the centre of a police investigation after five nurses were charged with falsifying medical records and wilful neglect.

A spokesman said: 'We offer our apologies as this is not the standard of care we would wish to provide.'



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By **Ray Massey**  
Transport Editor

MILLIONS of motorists face a 'spy in the cab' offensive by police using a secret unmarked lorry to catch drivers who text and phone at the wheel.

Thousands are expected to be prosecuted after it starts patrolling motorways and A-roads this spring.

A police driver and an officer with a video camera sitting high above the traffic will be on the look-out for offenders who cannot usually be seen from ground level.

A support team of two police motorcyclists and a marked police car in constant touch with the juggernaut will drive nearby to help gather evidence.

Offences to be targeted include texting or phoning while driving, speeding, hogging the middle or outside lane, drink or drug driving, driving without care, and failing to wear a seat belt.

Police will deal with the errant drivers through 'enforcement and education' including 'words of advice, driver education courses, fixed penalty notices or summons to court'.

The decision follows a three-month trial last year in five police areas - Surrey, Hampshire, Sussex, Thames Valley and Warwickshire - in conjunction with the Highways Agency. Codenamed Operation Tramline, it led to the detection of 462 offences.

The new scheme will cover England's major motorways and strategic roads used daily by more than four million drivers. The aim is to tackle those offenders who are not spotted by con-

### 'It's not aimed at raising revenue'

ventional static speed cameras.

The Highways Agency has paid MAN Trucks for the hire of the unmarked lorry cab, which will be sent around the 45 police forces in England.

The agency said: 'The vehicle provided an ideal viewing platform for officers to observe drivers' actions from a high vantage point while out on the road.'

'The unit enables the police to observe and record poor and dangerous driving behaviour using a video camera. The pilot was very successful at identifying unsafe driving behaviour.'

'The aim of extending the project to a national initiative is not revenue generation but to improve driver behaviour and hence safety on the motorway network.'

Officials said the original objective had been to use the raised seating position of the HGV cab to focus on dangerously driven lorries, but police quickly realised its usefulness for spotting other offences being committed.

The Highways Agency spokesman said: 'Car drivers' texting while driving are not easy to identify from police patrol vehicles but the elevated seating position makes this offence much easier to see.'

Sergeant Chris Schultze from Surrey's Roads Policing Unit, which led the trials, said: 'Drivers continue to put themselves and others at risk. We have been looking for things like drivers who are not in proper control of the vehicle, if they are doing anything that is distracting them. It's been a massive success.'

Professor Stephen Glaister, director of the RAC Foundation, said: 'Police will literally be looking down on drivers to check they are concentrating on the road

# Police spies in the cab

## Undercover officers pose as truckers to trap drivers who text and phone at the wheel



On the lookout: An officer in the police lorry during the trial of the in-cab video camera

## Motorist caught brushing his teeth

OFFENCES spotted during the trial included:

- A motorist who was caught brushing his teeth while at the wheel
- A driver using the hard shoulder to avoid a jam because he was late for magistrates' court - to be tried for dangerous driving
- A driver using his smartphone to carry out a video conversation in slow-moving traffic
- A Lithuanian lorry driver who said he was driving while on the phone because it was unlawful to stop on the hard shoulder

- A young Bentley owner stopped for driving anti-socially a week after passing his test
- A speeding driver who asked: 'How am I supposed to know my speed?'
- A lorry driver who said he had not worn his seat belt for 20 years
- A driver hogging the outside lane who replied: 'It's your fault officer, you shouldn't have been so close behind me'
- Romanian jewellery sellers who stopped on the hard shoulder to make a sale

and not being distracted by the latest message on their phone.

'Motorways are our safest roads but given the speeds involved and the mix of traffic, when things go wrong the results can be serious. Rooting out bad and anti-social behaviour is impor-

tant. Now motorists tempted to break the law are likely to have traffic officers peering right over their shoulders.'

Using a hand-held mobile while driving has been illegal for a decade and is subject to three penalty points and a £100 fine, rising

to a possible £1,000 on conviction in court. But Government figures show the number of accidents in which mobile phones and texting have been contributory factors has soared by 21 per cent in only three years.

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# £20-an-hour cost of wifi on cruise

WITH their on-board entertainment and air of relaxed seclusion, cruiseliners seem the ideal place to get away from it all.

But it appears that what holidaymakers really want is more intrusion from the outside world.

Almost nine in ten passengers said free wifi and email access is the innovation they would most like to see on cruise ships, a poll found.

With many now including smartphones and tablets in their luggage, travellers increasingly expect to be able to browse the internet even when far from land. And while many liners try to accommodate their demands with wifi hotspots, logging on can prove costly at up to £20 an hour.

There are also problems with repeated sig-

By **Tom Kelly**

nal interruptions and slow service. 'This is a particularly prevalent issue for younger families,' said Sukie Rapal of Cruise.co.uk, which carried out the poll of 1,000 passengers.

'Teenagers use their devices to stay in touch with friends on social media, access mobile applications and play games - meaning cruisers are susceptible to receiving a very unexpected cost at the end of their trip.'

The demand for better internet access is partly down to the falling average age of passengers, which the survey found has dropped from 60 to 55 years in the last decade.

'With a 195 per cent rise in the number of searches for cruises on mobile devices this

Christmas, it's apparent that cruisers have become more tech savvy,' she added.

'Cruisers need to do their research to find the most reasonable rates for wifi use, because if they fail to do so, it could end up costing them more than the holiday itself.'

The poll also showed that world class entertainment came high up on cruisers' wishlists, while around a fifth said their biggest demand was flat screen televisions in their cabins.

The least desired innovation was robot bar-men, which have already been installed on a Royal Caribbean ship. Just 1 per cent said they were interested in seeing these on board.

The most popular ocean destination for this year is the Far East, while Europe's Danube is the preferred river trip.

## How iPads are leaving infants unable to talk

CHILDREN are not learning to speak properly because their parents 'pacify' them with iPads instead of talking to them, a headmistress has warned.

Jo Heywood the problem was happening across the social spectrum and meant that when children start school at five, some 'cannot even talk' and have the communication skills of a two-year-old.

Mrs Heywood, head of Heathfield School, a £30,000-a-year boarding school for girls aged 11 to 18 in Ascot, Berkshire, said: 'You only have to spend a few hours watching parents or carers in any high street in this land to see how addictive and time-consuming mobile technology is for them.'

'I frequently see parents with prams juggling their childcare duties with texting or browsing the internet and having virtually no communication with their baby or toddler.' Mobile phones or tablets were shoved into the child's hands as soon as they could hold them, she told a conference in London, adding: 'iPhones and iPads have become the new pacifiers... addiction to smartphones is doing the opposite of making children smart.'

'Many are living in households where parents are hooked into their mobile phones or internets without speaking to them and they are given uncontrolled access to digital devices to keep them quiet.'

'The end result is that thousands of children are entering a primary school system with the communication skills of a 2 or 3-year-old. Some of them cannot even talk let alone be in a position to learn to read.'

## Yachts scupper seahorse refuge

PLANS to protect seahorses and other sea life were shelved yesterday so yachtsmen can moor their boats.

Officials said establishing marine conservation zones in Dorset's Studland Bay and around the Isle of Wight would have had major implications for sailors, including restrictions on where they could anchor.

The decision - by environment ministry Defra - was condemned by campaigners. Joan Edwards, of The Wildlife Trusts, said anchors break fragile eelgrass, which is the habitat of many underwater species.

There will now be a consultation exercise on the establishment of 23 conservation zones - 14 fewer than first planned.

Studland Bay is two miles from Sandbanks, Britain's most expensive strip of coastal real estate. It is also the only place in the UK where both native seahorse species - the spiny seahorse and the short-snouted seahorse - are known to breed.



## 'British' cheese cheats exposed

SHOPPERS are being misled into buying 'British' cheese that is actually made from imported milk, the Environment Secretary has warned.

Elizabeth Truss said confusing labelling means shoppers could think they are supporting farmers in this country by choosing dairy products made from British milk.

But in fact, cheap milk is often brought in from abroad and simply processed here. EU rules, however, allow Union Jacks and other branding suggesting products are home-grown to be displayed on these products.

'People place a premium on buying British food, but at the moment you can't always be sure the cheddar you're buying is made from British milk - even if it looks like it was,' the Cabinet minister said.

Farmers have complained about Lidl's Valley Spire cheese - saying both British and imported cheeses are packaged with the same branding and sold at the same price.

The Environment Secretary has had meetings with EU Commissioners to press for a change to labelling rules. A Brussels report is due to be produced within months on a change in the law.

The National Farmers Union said: 'It should be easy for the consumer to identify and buy British cheese made with assured British milk.'

# Medication could put you over new drug-drive limit

By **Ray Massey**  
Transport Editor

**MOTORISTS** on medication should carry their prescriptions with them – or risk being prosecuted under new drug-drive laws.

The warning from the Government, motoring lawyers and insurers comes as new legislation covering illegal and prescription drugs comes into effect from Monday.

The hard-hitting limits will be enforced by police equipped with roadside 'drugalyser' devices that measure the amount of a drug in the blood, much as a breathalyser does for alcohol.

They will also use roadside impairment tests such as asking a suspect to estimate when 30 seconds have elapsed, stand on one leg, and touch their nose with their eyes closed to check if their reaction, balance and co-ordination are affected.

The Crime and Courts Act 2013 includes eight prescription drugs – covering conditions such as anxiety, insomnia, severe pain and epilepsy. The limits set for these exceed normal prescribed doses. However there will be a legal defence if a driver is found to be over the limit, but is not impaired.

Ministers say motorists across England and Wales taking medicines should also check with their doctor or pharmacist before getting behind the wheel.

The new drug-drive law sets limits at very low levels – bordering on 'zero tolerance' – for eight illegal

drugs such as cannabis and cocaine.

Motorists convicted of drug-driving will be banned for at least a year and can be fined up to £5,000, spend up to a year in prison and receive a criminal record.

The penalty for causing death by dangerous driving under the influence of drugs is up to 14 years in jail.

Motoring law expert Tim Williamson, of the law firm Blake Morgan, said: 'We imagine it will be difficult for a motorist to know with any

accuracy whether they are over the legal limits referred to in the regulations and so will have to act with the utmost caution.

'I would advise drivers to ensure they keep evidence of any prescription with them while driving.'

The drug-driving regulations will sit alongside the existing offence of driving a motor vehicle while impaired by drugs.

Ministers insist most people on prescription drugs can drive as they normally would. A Department for Transport spokesman

said: 'The law is designed to catch people who risk people's lives by getting behind the wheel after taking drugs – not those taking legitimate medicines that don't impair their ability to drive.'

Road Safety minister Robert Goodwill, said: 'If you are taking medicine as directed and your driving is not impaired, there is no need to worry.'

'For cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and ketamine, and four other commonly-abused drugs, if they're detected in the blood above a set

level it will be enough to charge people with drug-driving.

'We've set the levels as low as we reasonably can – low enough that one smoke of cannabis is likely to put an offender over the limit, but high enough so suspects can't claim drugs were inhaled accidentally.'

Drivers impaired by drugs are responsible for up to 200 deaths a year in Britain, and ministers says the new rules could prevent up to 84 deaths and more than 330 serious injuries in the next 20 years.

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Roadside: Police will take saliva to test in a 'drugalyser'

## WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR

Prescribed medicine	Treatment for	Drug-drive limit*
Clonazepam	Epilepsy	50
Diazepam	Anxiety or insomnia	550
Flunitrazepam	Insomnia	300
Lorazepam	Anxiety or insomnia	100
Methadone	Severe pain/ heroin substitute	500
Morphine	Severe pain	80
Oxazepam	Anxiety	300
Temazepam	Insomnia	1,000

\*micrograms of drug per litre of blood



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By **Ray Massey**  
Transport Editor

# How your hi-tech car dashboard can kill you

## Distracted drivers blamed for thousands of deaths

**SAFETY** campaigners are urging car makers to limit the number of hi-tech dashboard gadgets that distract drivers from the road.

They want Britain to adopt guidelines similar to those just introduced in the US - where distracted drivers are being blamed for thousands of road accident deaths.

The guidelines include limiting the time a driver must take his eyes off the road to perform any task to two seconds at a time.

In America, the authorities say the problem is already 'a deadly epidemic' and UK road safety experts fear it could reach similar proportions here.

In the US more than 3,000 deaths were attributed to distracted drivers in one year alone.

In Britain, the Institute of Advanced Motorists says new cars are filled with so many hi-tech gadgets such as sat-nav and 'info-

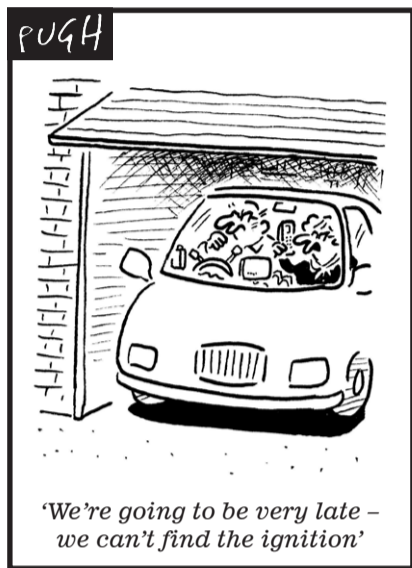
### 'Devastating consequences'

tainment' systems that they have become 'living rooms on wheels'.

They say car-makers in Britain and Europe should be subject to the same sort of voluntary 'distraction guidelines' introduced in the US last week.

These recommend disabling several operations unless the vehicle is stopped, including manual text entry for messaging and internet browsing; video-based entertainment and communications such as video conferencing and display of certain types of text, including text messages.

The US government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recommendations also 'limit the time a driver must take his eyes off the road to perform any task to two seconds at a time



and 12 seconds total'. These voluntary guidelines are to be phased in over the next three years.

US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said: 'Distracted driving is a deadly epidemic that has devastating consequences on our nation's roadways.'

'Combined with good laws, good enforcement and good education,

these guidelines can save lives.' US Federal data figures showed in 2011 that accidents involving a distracted driver led to 3,331 deaths.

A study by the NHTSA showed that visual-manual tasks associated with hand-held phones and other portable devices trebled the risk of a crash. Text messaging doubled the risk of a crash or near-

crash with the driver's eyes being off the road for an average of 23.3 seconds.

Sarah Sillars of the IAM, the UK's largest independent road safety charity, warned: 'Efforts to reduce distraction factors for motorists are being undone by the relentless pace of technology and eagerness of car makers to pack more gadgets

on to dashboards. We cannot allow the same trends in the USA to happen here.

'While car makers work constantly to incorporate active and passive safety features into vehicles, they are also guilty of making us feel more cosseted - like we were in our own living rooms.'

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