



Driving Offences You Didn't Know You Were Committing

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The flash of blue police lights in your rear view mirror fills any motorist with dread especially if you've already got points on your driving licence.

Sometimes you instantly know why - speeding, driving without insurance or jumping a red light. Other times you may be genuinely baffled.

There are many motoring offences people may not realise they are committing, carrying fines of up to £1,000 or leading to an outright driving ban via the totting up system.

But knowing the law can help a motorist avoid breaking it. Some offences are less clear cut than speeding for example and open to interpretation which means there may be scope to challenge on several grounds. At Just Motor Law we recommend that in order to avoid a motoring conviction drivers should refresh their awareness of the law by re-visiting the Highway Code, you may be surprised at the driving habits which carry legal consequences.

To help provide you with guidance, Just Motor Law addresses a selection of common offences motorists don't even know they are committing;

1. Using flashing headlights as a warning

Warning fellow oncoming motorists of a police speed trap by flashing your lights could see you charged with obstructing police if it is proven you helped a speeding motorist avoid possible prosecution. A 64-year-old male motorist from Grimsby fell foul of the law in 2011 and was hit with a fine and costs totalling £440 by magistrates.

2. Illegible number plates

Dirty number plates that obscure the registration details can lead to a £1,000 fine. Be sure to keep your number plate dirt free so all the digits can be read.

3. Honking your horn

Honking your horn while stationary unless to warn a moving vehicle of danger. In fact, you can't use your horn on a residential street from 11.30pm till 7am in any circumstances.

4. Distractions while driving

Changing a CD, sipping a hot drink, eating food or doing your make-up while driving could be considered careless or even dangerous driving.

5. Taking a phone call

Pulling over to take a mobile phone call - you may still be considered by police to be 'driving' and therefore breaking the law if the engine is running, even if you are parked at the kerbside. Be safe: park up and switch off or use a hands free phone.

6. Playing loud music

Playing loud music, especially with your car windows down, could be regarded as causing a distraction for either yourself or other road users.

7. Child seats

Cradling a babe in arms as a passenger, even if you are wearing a seatbelt, is unlawful and the driver is responsible. All children must have a 'restraint' such as a booster seat or baby seat until their 12th birthday or reaching 135cm tall. Travelling in a taxi is an exception.

8. Road rage

Being abusive or making rude hand gestures to a fellow road user or pedestrian can be considered inconsiderate, careless or dangerous driving.

9. The 'morning after' the night before

'Morning after' drink-drivers - convictions of motorists who are over the alcohol limit from the previous night are on the rise. Some people who stop drinking alcohol at midnight may still be above legal limits for driving at 4pm the next day - 16 hours later - depending on the amount consumed.

10. Drug driving

Driving under the influence of illegal drugs such as cannabis or cocaine is increasingly well known, but patients on prescription drugs face a similar ban if their driving is impaired by medication (e.g. pills for blood pressure, pain relief and even some cold and flu remedies).

Just Motor Law is a specialist legal service that provides expert advice and representation to motorists across the UK. Our success has been built upon our commitment to our clients, providing expert knowledge and advice when it is needed most.

Just Motor Law is a dedicated team of experienced lawyers that provide expert advice and representation to motorists who are alleged to have committed a driving offence. The team defends motorists from across the UK, providing specialist advice on all motoring offences including speeding, failing to stop, no insurance, drink or drug driving.

We understand that losing your driving licence can heavily impact on your day to day life. Finding the right lawyer to act for you is crucial to avoid a motoring conviction and more importantly, to avoid driving disqualification.

We also aim to give advice with regards to motoring offences in order to prevent drivers falling foul of the law.

If you find yourself accused of any motoring offences, Just Motor Law provides an exclusive and transparent service where you always know the financial cost of your case from the outset, with no hidden surprises. We provide:

- **Direct access to a specialist motoring lawyer**
- **FREE initial telephone advice**
- **24/7 advice line**
- **FREE police station representation**
- **Day to day support and advice**
- **Great value legal service**

For more information contact our team today

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Client Testimonials

“Having been personally recommended to Just Motor Law from a colleague, I would definitely continue to pass the recommendation on. From sending the court paperwork over to them – I didn’t have to do another thing and got an amazing result that I am very pleased with! Thanks for your help.”

G McGowan

“I instructed Natali and Matt in relation to an offence of failing to identify the driver and was told from the very early stages in my proceedings that I had a good case. As advised, my case was dropped on the day of trial following Matt's excellent representation in court.

Both Matt and Natali did an excellent job on my case and will definitely be recommending them to my friends and business associates. Thank you so much.”

M Campbell

“It is tremendously overwhelming to receive a NIP from the Police and of course your first response is to panic. Luckily I had the insight to contact Just Motor Law, and they helped me through the minefield of legal jargon and quite simply, did a stunning job proving that I wasn't speeding and wasn't even on the road the alleged offence took place!

I would definitely recommend Just Motor Law to friends and colleagues.”

D Fryer

“I had 4 offences of failing to identify the driver all of which carry a punishment of 6 penalty points for each offence. After many months of pressure being placed on the CPS for their evidence, all 4 offences were dropped at court by the prosecution.

I am so happy with the advice and representation received from Natali and Matt. Without them I would have been disqualified from driving for 6 months, would have lost my job and been unable to pay my mortgage!”

J Mee

Important Information - Disclaimer

This publication contains general information only. Nothing in this publication constitutes legal advice. You should consult a suitably qualified lawyer on any specific legal problem or matter.