# Traffic enforcement using unmarked HGVs tackles dangerous driving in Warwickshire



Traffic enforcement efforts in Warwickshire have gained significant attention following the innovative utilisation of unmarked heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) to monitor and identify dangerous driving behaviours. This initiative, known as "Operation Tramline," is designed to enhance road safety by addressing common yet hazardous offences such as distracted driving, including the use of mobile phones and failure to wear seat belts.

Since its implementation, Warwickshire traffic police have detected nearly 2,700 offences, highlighting a range of alarming behaviours observed on the roads. According to National Highways, a distinctive feature of this operation is that officers can gain a unique perspective from within the elevated position of an HGV, allowing them to spot infractions that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Among the offences reported, one motorist was noted applying makeup while driving, while another was observed steering with their elbows. These incidents reflect a broader trend observed across the country under Operation Tramline, which has documented various unusual driving offences. For instance, drivers have been seen consuming meals while driving, including one individual indulging in a bowl of cereal in North Yorkshire and another dining on lasagne with utensils. Additionally, a driver on the M25 was seen playing with a Rubik's Cube while navigating through traffic, underscoring the extent of distractions some drivers are willing to engage in while behind the wheel.

In another instance, a driver in Surrey justified their use of a mobile phone while driving by stating they needed to call their new girlfriend after their song played on the radio. This attitude reinforces concerns about the perceptions of risk among some motorists when it comes to distracted driving.

Chief Constable Jo Shiner, who serves as the National Police Chiefs’ Council lead for roads policing, spoke about the dangers posed by driving while distracted. “Driving while distracted is incredibly dangerous and selfish, putting many lives at risk," she remarked. "Proactive work to tackle this and the other fatal four driving behaviours is vitally important in improving the safety of our roads, as well as educating road users to think twice about their actions.”

Shiner noted that the outcomes of Operation Tramline demonstrate its effectiveness and the enhanced visibility provided by the HGVs, which allows officers to more accurately observe the road dynamics. She emphasised that collaborative efforts among various agencies are crucial for improving road safety for all users.

Operation Tramline has gained traction as it is being adopted by multiple police forces throughout the United Kingdom, aiming to reduce unsafe driving practices and raise public awareness about road safety issues. As these operations continue, the focus remains on mitigating distractions that contribute to dangerous driving and potentially fatal accidents on the nation’s roads.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/news/warwickshire/news/2023/november/over-100-offences-detected-during-latest-operation-tramline-on-m40-and-m42-in-warwickshire/> - Corroborates the use of Operation Tramline by Warwickshire police to identify hazardous driving behaviors, such as using mobile phones and not wearing seatbelts.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9anpGaiAEf0> - Provides a visual example of Operation Tramline in action, where an unmarked HGV is used to catch drivers committing offences.
* <https://www.drivingforbetterbusiness.com/operation-tramline/> - Explains the nationwide scope of Operation Tramline and how it utilizes HGVs to monitor driver behavior and improve compliance with road safety regulations.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Source of the article discussing the effectiveness of Operation Tramline in confronting unsafe driving practices across the UK.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-policing-lead-for-roads-policing> - This source typically provides information on national policing initiatives, which may include details on Operation Tramline and its national coordination.