

Drugs and driving: the law

New drug-driving laws came into force on the 2nd March 2015 - some of the detail is as follows

It's illegal to drive if either you are unfit to do so because you're on legal or illegal drugs or if you have certain levels of illegal drugs in your blood (even if they haven't affected your driving).

Legal drugs are prescription or over-the-counter medicines. If you're taking them and not sure if you should drive, you should talk to your doctor, pharmacist or healthcare professional.

The police can stop you and make you do a 'field impairment assessment' if they think you're on drugs. This is a series of tests, eg asking you to walk in a straight line. They can also use a roadside drug kit to screen for illegal drugs. If they think you're unfit to drive because of taking drugs, you'll be arrested and will have to take a blood or urine test at a police station.

You could be charged with a crime if the test shows you've taken drugs.

Prescription medicines:

It is illegal in England and Wales to drive with legal drugs in your blood if it impairs your driving. It is also an offence to drive if you have over the specified limits of certain drugs in your blood and you haven't been prescribed them.

Talk to your doctor about whether you should drive if you've been prescribed any of the following drugs: Clonazepam, Diazepam, Flunitrazepam, Lorazepam, Methadone, Temazepam, Morphine or opiate and opioid-based drugs.

You can drive after taking these drugs if you have been prescribed them and followed advice on how to take them by a healthcare professional and /or they aren't causing you to be unfit to drive even if you're above the specified limits

You could be prosecuted if you drive with certain levels of these drugs in your body and you haven't been prescribed them.

The law doesn't cover Northern Ireland and Scotland but you could still be arrested if you're unfit to drive.

Penalties for drug driving:

If you're convicted of drug driving you'll get:

A minimum 1 year driving ban, a fine of up to £5,000, up to 6 months in prison and a criminal record. Your driving licence will also show you've been convicted for drug driving. This will last for 11 years.

The penalty for causing death by dangerous driving under the influence of drugs is a prison sentence of up to 14 years.

A conviction for drug driving also means:

Your car insurance costs will increase significantly, if you drive for work your employer will see your conviction on your licence and you may have trouble travelling to countries like the USA.



As the summer holidays approach don't forget the importance of travel insurance. You may find it's more economical to take out an annual travel insurance policy rather than separate insurance for each holiday. We can help you with an appropriate policy, just contact us on the usual number.



On the 6th February the staff at Aults raised £71 for the British Heart Foundation.

On the 14th November 2014 staff at Ault's raised £51 for the BBC's Children in Need appeal.

Are you protected against a Cyber Attack?

What would you do if someone infiltrates your server or your company records? There are criminals (this could be an ex-employee) that could get access to the company database and would then be able to obtain customers records including; Social Security Numbers, Bank Account details and addresses amongst other personal data. In simple terms any data kept on your computer systems and servers, including employee personnel files.

Once they have gained access, damage can be caused and often go unnoticed until it's too late to stop it. The cost of data breach recovery can be very expensive and in some cases cause a business to cease trading or become bankrupt.

Interruption to your Business

Not only must hacked businesses often close their doors while they investigate the source and impact of data breaches, they could suffer from decreased sales due to negative publicity and diminished customer confidence. The days or weeks a firm spends not trading represent lost profits and future opportunities.

Though cyber-attacks can have these and other grim consequences for your company, cyber liability insurance provides valuable resources to help regain what your business may have lost.

The most important question is, can you afford not to protect your company?



What's the answer? - Cyber Insurance

This can be purchased from some of the leading Insurers.

What does cyber insurance cover?

Most Cyber Insurers cover is designed to provide you with the support and protection you will need, from some of the financial consequences of a cyber attack, and includes:

- Protection from third party claims against the company
- Mitigation of the financial impact of data leaks
- Advice and support for your IT department
- Managing the risk of any adverse publicity
- Regulatory fines for data breaches
- Loss of profits while recovery is taking place
- Professional fees
- Breach coaching

Want to know more about Cyber Insurance?
Call the office and speak to one of our experienced
Commercial Account Team



Puzzle Corner

I took the adjacent photograph of a famous building on a day out a couple of years ago.
Can you identify it ?

Entries as usual via our web site only by 31st May 2015.
£25 worth of Marks and Spencer's vouchers will be sent to the first entry drawn out of the hat who identifies it correctly.

In our Autumn 2014 newsletter we asked you how many sections of tube there were in the filigree table made by Accles and Pollock Ltd in 1939.

The answer was 8050.

The winning entry drawn out of the hat was from Lesley Brookes from our client Action Drains Ltd. We sent her £25 of Marks and Spencer's vouchers as usual.

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