



# CAR TEXTS TO BE BLOCKED

**New software 'will save lives'**

■ By KEVIN JENKINSON

**TEXTING while driving is to be blocked in a major clampdown road safety chiefs are considering.**

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) met yesterday with Clear Sky Technology, which will provide the "anti-messaging technology" that can shut off a phone's texting ability if a driver is going over a certain speed.

## Code

Ciaran Hynes, from Clear Sky, said that a global positioning system (GPS) will enable a phone user who tries to text while moving to be asked if he or she is a driver of a vehicle.

If they say yes they can't send a text, but if they say no they must type in a random code.

"It passes quickly and there is no way you can do it while driving," said Sam Nayagam from Clear Sky.

This ensures that car, bus and train passengers can still use their phones — despite the possible annoyance that this may occur.

**The RSA is seriously considering the new technology — which Clear Sky is hoping to install all over Europe.**

It said the software will save lives and prevent many collisions from occurring — with research showing that distracted driving accounts for between 25 to 30 per cent of road accidents each year.

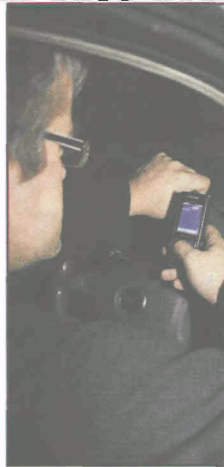
**The RSA said it will enable the Government to enforce specific legislation that seeks to eradicate driving while texting.**

In the 12 months before September last year, the number of penalties issued for driving while using a mobile phone increased by 70 per cent.

## Crash

RSA chief executive Noel Brett has said motorists "are four times more likely to have a crash while using a mobile phone".

Currently anyone caught holding their mobile phone while driving can get two penalty points and four on a court conviction.



**DANGER: Texting while driving**