



## **SUBJECT:** CONVERSATION KILLER

**RECIPIENTS:** All Services – Including Schools

**ISSUE DATE:** Nov 2016      **REF:** HSB69

### **A lorry driver is jailed for 10 years for causing the deaths of four family members while using his mobile phone**

On the 10th August this year, A driver on the northbound carriageway of the A34 in Berkshire drove into the back of a stationary queue of vehicles at approximately 50mph.

A mother, her two sons and her partner's daughter, who were all travelling in the same vehicle, died at the scene. A further five people were injured, one with life-threatening injuries.

At Crown Court the driver pleaded guilty to four counts of causing death by dangerous driving and one count of causing serious injury by dangerous driving and was sentenced to 10 years in prison.



The District Crown Prosecutor for Thames and Chiltern Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said: "This was not a tragic accident but four deaths were caused by driver inattention and distraction", adding, "This case highlights the serious consequences of failing to be alert and prepared for unexpected driving conditions. Hand held mobile phones **must not** be used by drivers under any circumstances as they are a lethal distraction which, as this case demonstrates, can lead to untold misery".

**Lincolnshire County Council is committed to protecting its staff and exercising appropriate care towards them, and this includes guidance for the use of mobile phones and hands-free technology whilst driving.**

**Managers/staff who either have or issue council mobile phones MUST read the corporate policy and guidance listed below:**

**[G32 Mobile Phone Policy](#)**

**[POEL24 Mobile Phone Health & Safety Advice](#)**

**If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:**

Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Adviser – [corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk))