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## **WORK PERK TAKEN FOR GRANTED AS DRIVERS USE AND ABUSE COMPANY CARS**

We all suspected it, but new research from [uSwitch.com](http://uSwitch.com), the independent comparison and switching service, reveals that drivers really do behave differently when driving a company car. Two thirds (67%) are more likely to take bigger risks when they're driving a company car, while over half (52%) are more likely to speed than when driving their own car.

And the bad behaviour doesn't end there. 67% are also more likely to lane hop in company cars while more than six in ten (62%) say they're more likely to jump the lights. And despite the dangers and the fact that it's illegal, over eight in ten (83%) are more likely to use a mobile in their company car, perhaps because work doesn't end just because they're on the road.

With employers having to foot the bill for any repairs, drivers are also less likely to worry about the general wear and tear of their company car. Less than three in ten (27%) are more worried about knocking or scratching their work car than their personal car and less than a quarter (24%) bother to check the oil or water. And although they're being trusted by their employer to look after it, just a fifth (21%) are concerned about the security of their work car more than their personal one.

The research also shows that when it comes to keeping their cars clean and well looked after Brits don't worry as much about the one they don't own. Even though they are representing their business in their company car, over half of workers (53%) are more likely to litter it, while six in ten (60%) are more likely to eat and drink in it than in their own car. Although this could be in part because of the pressure they are under to be at their next destination rather than take a proper break for lunch, in fact less than a quarter (24%) worry about keeping their company car clean.

**Michael Ossei, personal finance expert at uSwitch.com, says:** "A company car is a real perk, especially for cash strapped consumers. Unfortunately our research shows that some drivers aren't just using it, but are guilty of abusing it, treating their work car very differently to

their own car which is funded out of their own pocket. But a company car doesn't give you carte blanche for risky driving - taking liberties with your company car could not only drive your boss round the bend, but also your insurance premium up."

<b>In a work car, drivers are more likely to:</b>	<b>In their own car, drivers are more likely to:</b>
Speed	Clean it
Take bigger risks	Check water and oil
Lane hop	Be concerned about wear and tear and bumps and scratches
Jump lights	Worry about its security
Use mobile phone while driving	
Eat and drink	

**Source: uSwitch.com**

**For more information visit [www.uSwitch.com](http://www.uSwitch.com) or call 0800 093 06 07**

**-Ends-**

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**Notes to editors:**

Research carried out online with the uSwitch.com Consumer Opinion Panel in October 2011, among 1,369 British adults.

**About us**

uSwitch.com is a free, impartial, online and telephone-based comparison and switching service, helping consumers compare prices on gas, electricity, water, heating cover, home telephone, broadband, digital television, mobile phones and personal finance products including mortgages, credit cards, current accounts and insurance. In 2010 uSwitch.com celebrated ten years of saving customers money.

uSwitch.com is the first comparison website to achieve the Plain English Campaign's Internet Crystal Mark, which is recognised as a standard that a website has clear language, is accessible and easy to use, and has been tested on a sample of its users.

uSwitch.com is dedicated to helping consumers save money whether they have internet access or not. It offers a dedicated call centre, manned by uSwitch customer service representatives, as well as a freepost 'Send us your bill' service, whereby customers can post their latest energy bills with their telephone number to FREEPOST USWITCH, to get a free call back from a dedicated customer services representative. The service is also available via fax, email and post. Consumers should fax 0203 214 8417, email [CustomerServices@uswitch.com](mailto:CustomerServices@uswitch.com) or write to Customer Services, uSwitch.com, Centro 3, 19 Mandela Street, London, NW1 0DU with their postcode and usage details.

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