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## Nearly two-thirds of learner drivers feel underprepared

NEW research by Liberty Insurance shows that 61 per cent of drivers feel under-prepared for the road even after passing their practical test.

Conversely, only two out of five drivers felt very prepared to drive on the road after completing their test.

Half of all drivers under 30 do not feel confident when driving in certain places or performing particular manoeuvres, like reverse parallel parking and using major roundabouts with multiple exits.

In addition to a lack of confidence in their own ability, seven in ten drivers think that Irish roads are more hazardous than they were a decade ago. This opinion is higher among females (81 per cent), older

drivers aged 55-64 (76 per cent) and residents of Connacht/Ulster (79 per cent).

Among Irish drivers that lack confidence on the road, feelings of nervousness have been experienced by 60 per cent when behind the wheel, while almost half (49 per cent) have experienced anxiety. 19 per cent report feelings of panic and 18 per cent a sense of fear.

Overall, women drivers are less confident than their male counterparts; under 30 drivers are the least confident of all age groups; and the country's least confident drivers are from Connacht/Ulster.

Commenting, Deirdre Ashe, Director of Personal Lines at Liberty Insurance, said: "The results of this survey show that as a country, we currently lack

confidence in our driving abilities and feel increasingly unsafe on our roads.

"In many ways, this isn't entirely surprising. Our roads are busier than ever before, with more distractions for drivers, like smartphones. Adding to the danger is the huge number of uninsured private vehicles on Irish roads, estimated by the Motor Insurance Bureau of Ireland (MIBI) to be over 151,000.

"If drivers are particularly nervous entering roundabouts or parallel parking, they should be looking to address and improve on this, like taking advanced driving lessons with IAM Road Smart Ireland. Further tips and advice are available on the Liberty Insurance Safety Centre as part of our 'Ready for the Real Road' initiative."