



Liberty  
Insurance®

Insurance the way it should be.

Publication: Letterkenny Post

Date: 15 June 2017

# More than half of new motorists feel under-prepared to drive

**New research has shown that 57 percent of Connacht and Ulster drivers feel under-prepared for the road even after passing their practical test.**

Conversely, only two in five drivers in Connacht and Ulster, or 43 percent, felt very prepared driving on the road after completing their test.

Half of all Irish 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, 79 percent of drivers in Connacht and Ulster think that Irish roads are more hazardous than they were a decade ago.

Among Irish drivers that lack confidence on the road, feelings of nervousness have been experienced by 60 percent when behind the wheel, while almost half (49 percent) have experienced anxiety. 19 percent report feelings of panic and 18 percent 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 people driving without insurance, which we estimate to be 151,000.

"In light of these findings, we all as drivers have a duty in taking greater personal responsibility for our actions on the road. By extension, road safety education is now more important than ever.

"For example, 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.

She added: "Finally, since its foundation, the Road Safety Authority (RSA) has led the way in raising standards on road safety and testing, and as a result we have seen significant improvements on our roads.

"In continuing down this path, there may be merit in incorporating some of these findings into the RSA's driving test curriculum and using it as an opportunity to develop new features within the driving test that will challenge learner drivers on the various issues cited in our research.

"In short, our findings demonstrate the importance of the ongoing collaboration between government and industry in the promotion of safer driving, particularly among younger drivers and in regional areas with less developed infrastructure."