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AA Motorist Survey Reveals Gaps in Road Safety Practices and Frustrations on Irish Roads

- **97% identified driving under the influence as the most dangerous driving behaviour**
- **90% of drivers said aggressive driving is the most frustrating behaviour on the road**
- **Only 56% of motorists surveyed always obey speed limits**
- **82% claim they never use their mobile phone while driving**
- **1 in 3 would intervene if they witness inappropriate parking behaviour**
- **Only 12% of drivers have used a bus lane during restricted hours**
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A new survey by The AA has uncovered some key trends in driving behaviours and etiquette on Irish roads. With over 2,600 respondents, the results highlight significant concerns surrounding driver conduct, road safety and etiquette, underscoring the need for improved awareness and responsibility among motorists.

The survey asked motorists to identify what they deem to be the most dangerous driving behaviours. Unsurprisingly, 97% identified driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs as the most dangerous behaviour, followed closely by using a mobile phone while driving at 96% and speeding at 95%. Running red lights, tailgating, traffic weaving and driving without headlights were also referenced. These statistics show a clear recognition of the major road risks, but also a worrying trend in terms of continued dangerous practices.

Additionally, aggressive driving and poor use of indicators ranked as the most frustrating habits motorists experience from others, with almost 90% of drivers noting aggressive driving as their top grievance. 84% expressed frustration with drivers failing to use their indicators, which continues to be a widespread issue. In the verbatim comments, there was an overwhelming number of motorists who said the use of the wrong lane especially on roundabouts was their top pet peeve.

When asked how often motorists obeyed speed limits, only 56% percent answered always and 42% responded with most of the time. Jennifer Kilduff, Head of Marketing and PR, The AA (Ireland) said, "The minority that said they sometimes, rarely or never obey speed limits is a small percentage but unfortunately the reality."

A notable 82% of respondents admitted to never using a mobile phone while driving, a promising trend towards safer driving practices. "The campaigns that the Road Safety Authority has been promoting are clearly having a positive impact on motorists" Kilduff added.

Parking etiquette was also a point of contention, with almost 93% of drivers claiming they have never misused a parking space. This includes the use of parent and child parking, disabled parking, double parking or the use of loading bays incorrectly. 1 in 3 surveyed said they would intervene if they saw another driver parking inappropriately, suggesting that some motorists are willing to take action when they witness poor parking behaviour.



Interestingly, 94% of motorists stated that they treat cyclists as equal road users, an important finding reflecting growing awareness of cyclists' rights and safety on the road. Nonetheless, rule-breaking remains a prevalent issue, with almost 38% of respondents stating they frequently observe motorists violating traffic rules.

"The AA encourages drivers to reflect on their own habits and driving etiquette, as 27% of motorists rated their driving etiquette as excellent, while a further 66% rated it as good. 99% of respondents claimed they always thanked other drivers for giving way on the roads, which was great to see." Kilduff added.

An honest 12% of drivers said they have used a bus lane during restricted hours. 34% stated the reason was for an emergency, 5% used the bus lane as they were late for work and 8% simply got impatient waiting in traffic. Looking at the verbatim commentary the majority of motorists said they had used a bus lane unknowingly or by accident.

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This press release is issued by The Automobile Association. For more information, please contact Jennifer Kilduff, Head of Marketing & PR, at (085) 833 8249 or kilduffj@theaa.ie.