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IAEM welcomes reduction in the legal blood alcohol concentration

The Irish Association for Emergency Medicine (IAEM) warmly welcomes the forthcoming legislation reducing the legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit for driving from 80mg/100ml blood to 50mg/100ml blood for the majority of drivers and to 20mg/100ml blood for professional and learner drivers. The requirement that there will be mandatory testing of drivers involved in specified incidents is also welcome. The Association had publicly and consistently supported the Minister for Transport, Mr Noel Dempsey TD in his stated ambition to see the reduced BAC endorsed by the Oireachtas.

There is irrefutable evidence linking impaired driving performance with alcohol ingestion and the new legislation brings Ireland into line with the limits in most European countries.

As professionals who regularly see the horrific impact of drink driving on road users, we endorse the legislation as providing a further incremental step in making our roads safer. However, the legislation will only be effective if it is rigorously enforced such that the risk of detection is high enough to deter potential offenders.

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