Alcohol a Factor in 38% of Collisions Between 2008 and 2012

- 286 people lost their lives and a further 69 were seriously injured in fatal crashes where alcohol was a contributory factor

1 June 2016: A new report from the Road Safety Authority (RSA) has revealed that between 2008 and 2012, alcohol was a contributory factor in 38% of all fatal collisions. The report, the third and largest in a series of landmark reports analysed An Garda Síochána Forensic Fatal Collision Investigation files in order to identify the main contributory factors in collisions.

983 fatal collisions occurred on Irish roads between 2008 and 2012, claiming the lives of 1,077 people. The forensic details of 867 fatal collisions were analysed to identify the cause of the collisions – of these, alcohol was a main contributory factor in 2 in 5 (330) collisions, claiming the lives of 286 people. A further 69 people were seriously injured.

The report also found that of the 867 collisions analysed:

- 38% of all fatal collisions involved a driver, motorcyclist, cyclist or pedestrian who had consumed alcohol
- 29% of all fatal collisions involved a driver or motorcyclist who had consumed alcohol
- 9% of all fatal collisions involved a pedestrian who had consumed alcohol

Of the 947 people killed in the 867 collisions analysed, alcohol was a contributory factor in:

- 38% of all driver deaths
- 30% of all motorcyclist deaths
- 47% of all pedestrian deaths
- 42% of all passenger deaths
- 86% of drivers and 51% of passengers not wearing seatbelt who had consumed alcohol were killed

Of the 330 alcohol related collisions:

- 1 in 10 of all driver alcohol related collisions occurred between 7am and 11am.

The RSA and An Garda Síochána have the following advice for people heading out for a few drinks:

- Plan ahead. Make sure you know how you’re getting home, whether by taxi, with a designated driver or public transport.
- Don’t walk home if you’re drunk. Half of pedestrians killed on our roads have consumed alcohol.
• Never ever drink and drive. Any amount of alcohol impairs your driving so either leave the car at home and arrange alternative transport, or stick to the soft drinks.

• Don’t forget that you could still be over the limit the next morning so take the necessary precautions. It takes roughly one hour for your body to get rid of one unit of alcohol which is a half pint or a standard glass of wine, so if you got to bed late and didn’t get a good night’s sleep, the effect of the alcohol will be more significant.

• 1 in 10 drink driving arrests happen between 8am and 2pm so if you have had a heavy night out, leave the car at home.

• Passengers are reminded to wear seatbelts and to understand that there is a close link between alcohol consumption and the non-wearing of seatbelts in fatality statistics.

To date this year (1 June 2016), 74 people have been killed on Irish roads, an increase of 16 fatalities compared to the same date last year.