

# Still too many accidents on our roads

**Stephen Watkins, Director of Corporate Services at the Injuries Board discusses road accidents and personal injuries.**

**The Injuries Board is the state body that processes personal injury claims.**



The Injuries Board is the state body that processes personal injury claims. In 2012 the Injuries Board made over 10,000 awards to members of the public in respect of personal injury claims and three quarters of those related to motor accidents. With such high volumes of motor claims, clearly, road safety remains a key issue in the personal injuries landscape. The Injuries Board would echo the advice of the Road Safety Authority who warn about risks associated with driving such as speed, driver fatigue and using mobile phones. Keeping aware of road safety when we get behind the wheel will ensure that the number of collisions and serious injuries on our roads is reduced.

Since its establishment in 2004, the Injuries Board has gathered a wealth of data in relation to motor accident claims. This data shows for example, that the period January through June produces fewer claims than July through December, with November being the most dangerous month and that Friday and Sunday are the most dangerous and safest days of the week respectively. The average award in respect of a motor injury is just over €20,000 and the peak age bracket for motor claims is the 25-34 year old age group. Females account for about 3% more motor claims than males and also tend to secure higher value motor awards. Further information on the work of the Injuries Board, including motor claims, and case studies of previous claimants are available at [www.injuriesboard.ie](http://www.injuriesboard.ie).

The [www.injuriesboard.ie](http://www.injuriesboard.ie) website has recently been re-vamped so that it is now more user-friendly and easier to navigate.

Last year 162 people were killed on Irish roads and there were 302 serious injury collisions according to An Garda Síochána. However the Injuries Board believes that the number of serious injuries could be even higher. While 302 serious injury collisions were reported, the Injuries Board in fact made 529 high value road traffic collision awards in 2012. This differential suggests that the real cost of carnage on our roads is under-appreciated, particularly bearing in mind that the Injuries Board's figures exclude early settlements by insurers. While road fatalities have reduced in Ireland in recent years, too many accidents are still taking place. For those unfortunate enough to have been injured, the good news is that making a claim has become somewhat less stressful in recent years given that personal injuries claims that previously took 3 years through the Courts are now assessed within 9 months by the Injuries Board. Since 2004, all personal injury claims in Ireland (with some limited exceptions) must be submitted through the Injuries Board unless settled directly between the parties after the accident.

**The Injuries Board is the Government agency which makes personal injury awards. We can be contacted by telephoning our Lo-Call helpline - 1890 829 121 between 8am and 8pm, Monday to Friday, by logging on to [www.injuriesboard.ie](http://www.injuriesboard.ie), or by writing to us at [InjuriesBoard.ie](http://InjuriesBoard.ie), P.O. Box 8, Clonakilty, Co Cork.**

**Injuries  
Board.ie**

