



Question submitted to Insurance Ireland on 13th May 2022 from the Climate Change Advisory Council

The Climate Change Advisory Council, in its role to advise Government on climate policy is considering measures to assist the reduction of emissions in the transport sector. A reduction in single passenger car trips would lead to a reduction in emissions. The Council is exploring potential barriers to car-sharing or car pooling. In this regard, uncertainty regarding insurance cover may act as a barrier to uptake of this measure.

Would the insurance industry in Ireland be in a position to clarify the insurance implications for drivers in car pooling or ride-sharing arrangements, including in cases where the non-driver in the arrangement contributes to fuel costs? As an example, If a driver failed to inform his/her insurer of such an arrangement and subsequently was involved in an accident, would this invalidate their insurance? Are there policies on offer in the marketplace that specifically cater for these kinds of arrangements? Any information and clarity you can provide on this and related issues would be most welcome.

Response from Insurance Ireland on Friday 20th may

The Insurance industry is committed to supporting such mobility concepts and its potential to reduce carbon emissions, reduce congestion, the pressure on parking spaces and fuel costs, and supplement a more sustainable transport system.

Generally, Carpooling will not affect a driver's insurance as long as;

- The vehicle is not built or adapted to carry more than eight passengers excluding the driver.
- The passengers are not being carried as part of a business of carrying passengers.
- The driver/owner does not make a profit from the total money they receive for the journey.
- Agreement is made in advance of the journey/commute. If an insured person who is going to take part in a car pooling has any doubt about their insurance cover, they should clarify same with their insurer or broker. With regard to passengers being covered, passenger cover for private cars is compulsory under the Road Traffic Acts.

Insurance Ireland does not have a standard agreement with our members regarding carpooling and the products offerings will vary from insurer to insurer.