

You could be imprisoned, banned from driving and face a fine if you're found guilty of drink-driving. The actual penalty you get is up to the magistrates who hear your case, and depends on your offence.



HIGH RISK OFFENDER SCHEME

Your driving licence won't be returned automatically at the end of a driving ban if you're a 'high risk offender'. You are a high risk offender if:



You've committed repeat offences.



You're a learner, novice, or professional driver (lower BAC limit: 20mg).



You refuse to comply with Garda roadside testing.



You were involved in a collision or injury while over the limit.

A CONVICTION FOR DRINK-DRIVING ALSO MEANS:



Your car insurance costs will increase significantly



Endorsement on your licence and possible criminal record



You will struggle to secure employment by having a driving ban



You will have difficulty obtaining visas (USA)