

12.8.13

DRIVERS ADMIT TO WANTING TO REPLACE THEIR CAR AFTER IT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT SAYS HELPHIRE SURVEY

- Nearly 70,000 drivers could be replacing their car each year after being involved in an accident
- 15% of drivers with a written off car are giving up their car for good

When drivers suffer even minor damage in an accident nearly half (47 per cent) use it as an excuse to replace their car according to a survey by Helphire of 1,500 drivers involved in an accident in the past eight months.

That could account for nearly 70,000 cars annually as the Department of Transport recorded 140,000 accidents between April 2012 and March 2013.

While car sales are up 10.3 per cent year to date in 2013 some drivers involved in an accident where their car has been written off are making a conscious decision not to replace it and pocket the insurer's cheque.

15 per cent said they had not replaced their car, instead switching to using public transport, sharing a car with family or colleagues or relying just on a single family car.

Generally drivers said they replace a **damaged car** with a smaller car to reduce motoring costs. Eighty eight per cent of those drivers whose cars received **light damage** and who weren't already driving a small car downsized their car to something smaller. Only where a driver's car was **written off** did they decide to upsize their car, with 85 per cent converting their insurance cheque into something bigger and older.

Meanwhile 86 per cent of those drivers with **moderate damage** who didn't already own a small car have bought one and generally spent less money on its replacement.

"As far as we can make out drivers feel their car is tainted once it has been damaged in an accident as 47 per cent admitted to not wanting it after it has been repaired," explained Jerome McManus, Helphire's group marketing director.

"We believe those drivers who have decided not to replace their car after it has been written off are generally responding to a continued rise in motoring costs combined with a change in their own travel requirements," he added.

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More about Helphire

Helphire Group is a market leading accident management company working in partnership with the UK's insurance and motor industries since 1992 to provide exceptional motor accident assistance to innocent drivers and their passengers. With a national network of over 25 branches and offices in Bath and Peterlee.