

## Video Journalism Entry 2022

**Name:**

Michael Carolan

**Title:**

Mother who survived head-on car crash calls for assessments for drivers suffering psychosis

**Video Link:**

<https://www.independent.ie/videos/mother-who-survived-head-on-crash-calls-for-assessments-for-drivers-suffering-psychosis-41470969.html>

**Article:**

<https://www.independent.ie/news/mother-who-survived-head-on-car-crash-calls-for-assessments-for-drivers-suffering-psychosis-41474222.html>

**Video Views:**

1,200

**Background:**

I got in touch with Maeve Kelly from Roscommon who had survived a head on car collision one night alongside her young daughter. The driver of the other car was suffering psychosis and had presented to mental health services in the lead up to the crash. The driver of the car was killed but Maeve and her daughter were left with life-long physical and mental trauma. The sixth year anniversary of the crash was approaching and in those years Maeve and her daughter's lives had been altered completely by this one incident. Maeve told me she was going to visit the site of the accident to lay a wreath, as a symbol of acceptance and with the hope of moving on from the incident. Maeve told me that she felt her old self died that night and was laying a wreath to mark this in the hope of getting closure on an incident she had no control over. Members of the Gardai and Ambulance services who had attended Maeve's crash and had subsequently become friends with Maeve were also at the scene to pay their respects. Maeve was adamant that something must be done to flag people suffering psychosis or extreme depression and that they should not be allowed behind the wheel of a car, as she viewed a car as a 'weapon' if put in the wrong hands.

My approach was to meet Maeve and focus on her story alone and show as best her point of view, recollection of the incident and how it has affected her physically but also mentally and what lasting trauma she bares. I wanted to create an intimate and honest setting by filming Maeve in her car as she drove the same route as the night of her crash and then placed a wreath at the side of the road where she believed her old self died that night. My intention was to keep the focus on Maeve exclusively so we can empathise with her story and understand why she calls for reforms and greater checks on drivers suffering psychosis as the encounter had ended the life she once had in an instant.