

Pi18.11 - Methods of Drug Recognition Training and Field Impairment Testing



This document is part of the SYP Statement of Agreed Policy **P18 - Road Policing** in conjunction with [Authorised Professional Practice \(APP\)](#). You may wish to refer to these now.

In line with the instructions contained within APP the following additions will also apply.

Method of Testing

FIT and DRT

Drug recognition Training (DRT) can improve a police officer's ability to recognise a person under the influence of drugs. Field Impairment Training (FIT) can be applied to assess whether a person is fit to drive a motor vehicle.

The concept of DRT/FIT fits within the Force drug and crime reduction strategies.

The DRT/FIT tests will be carried out by trained officers using the national protocols and no amendments to the tests or the form of words used will be allowed. Officers will complete Form MG/DD/F at the time of the assessment.

Prior to requiring a Preliminary Impairment Test, it is vital that there is suspicion that the driver has committed a moving traffic offence or has been involved in a collision or there is suspicion of drugs in their body. Such suspicion will be obtained in various ways, including the manner of driving, and/or signs and symptoms of drug use observed by witnesses, police or otherwise. The observations of the signs and symptoms are of paramount importance in the absence of evidence of a suspect's manner of driving.

The FIT procedure is NOT an interview and therefore does not require the driver to be cautioned prior to commencing the procedure.

The officer conducting the test should always attend at the custody suite to explain the findings of the test to the Custody officer and the Health Care Professional (HCP) - See 'Roadside' section below.

A drug screening test should also be carried out at all serious and fatal collisions.

NOTE: Where circumstance permit, a FIT test should be carried out **as well as** a drug screening test, in case the drug is not cannabis or cocaine. (If the drug screening test is negative, you can **arrest under Sec.4** and **investigate under Sec.5a**).

If a positive result is obtained, the detainee will have priority in custody where practicable. The process is then as in 'Roadside' below.

Drugwipe S3

This device is similar in size and appearance to a pregnancy test kit that one would purchase over the counter at a Pharmacy and requires a sample of the subject's saliva.

The device is type approved for 15 minutes after use and therefore do not need to be retained for Court.

Officers using the drugwipes should ideally be FIT trained, though it is not a pre-requisite. They are kept securely, controlled and distributed by district admins (personal issue), and recorded on a spreadsheet. The officer retains and disposes of it once used. Despite this, an officer may use another officer's issued Drugwipe. This must then be logged.

Please note, the drugwipe test would not be used in a pre-planned operation without prior consent from CI Roads Policing, OSU.

Roadside

If a vehicle is stopped at the Roadside and drug use is suspected, please see **Recommended Drug Procedure at the Roadside Flowchart**.

Custody

If a person is taken into custody under **sec 5a RTA**, the following flowchart should be followed: **The Station Procedure - Sec 5A RTA 1988**

If a person is taken into custody under **sec.s 4 and 5a RTA**, the following flowchart should be followed: **The Station Procedure - Sec 4 and 5A**

NOTE: All samples **must** be sealed and stored in the appropriate box in the custody fridge asap with necessary paperwork attached.

In all Sec. 4 cases, the advice of the HCP is needed to confirm only that there is a condition present which may be due to some drug (Sect. 7 (3) (a)) and the additional evidence of the FIT will assist the HCP in making that decision. However, if there is a POSITIVE drugs screening test, there is no need for a HCP to find a condition that may be due to a drug and a blood sample can be required.

The following actions should also be taken:

- Tell the person that a HCP is being called and any other Doctor the person nominates will also be called.
- Make the person aware that he or she is responsible for paying any fee for their own Doctor's attendance. Inform the Doctor that the request for attendance came from the patient who will be responsible for any fee.

- If the person refuses to be examined, ask the HCP to give an opinion based on observation of the person and that of the Drug Recognition Officer (DRO).

Persons in Hospital

If the person from whom you require a breath test, drug screening test, blood, urine or a FIT test (where circumstances permit) is a patient at a hospital, you must first tell the Doctor in immediate charge of the patient of your intention to require the test or specimen. Normally give a screening breath test. If the Doctor objects on medical grounds to a breath test, this does not preclude you from requiring the other tests or prevent you from pursuing a requirement for a blood or urine specimen.

Before requiring the patient to provide a specimen for analysis, also tell the Doctor that when you make the request you will give the patient the statutory warning required by the Act.

If the Doctor objects to either the giving of the statutory warning or the taking of blood or urine, on the grounds that it would be prejudicial to the proper care or treatment of the patient, then your investigation must cease forthwith.

Note the Doctor's consent or otherwise on the Form RT/5.

Drug Misuse Notification

Should any officer have evidence that an individual is using a drug which may impair their ability to drive a motor vehicle, officers will complete a form DVLA D751 (obtainable from the Traffic office). Depending on the category of the drug, this may result in the withdrawal of the driving licence.

This is another arm in our fight against illegal drugs, and it may help in reducing the availability and supply of such substances.

Any information of this nature should be forwarded for attention to:

Police Liaison Unit,
DVLA,

Forms Submission

All forms, positive or negative should be sent via e-mail to OSU.

Equality Act 2010

The Act creates a statutory requirement for all Functions and Policies (Including Procedural Instructions) to be analysed for their effect on equality, diversity and human rights, with due regard to the **General Equality Duty**.

In principle, this document has been assessed for discrimination, which cannot be justified, among other diverse groups.

The [Code of Ethics](#) published in 2014 by the College of Policing requires us all to do the right thing in the right way. It also recognises that the use of discretion in Policing is necessary but in using discretion, states that you should, "*take into account any relevant policing codes, guidance, policies and procedures*."