

## The Introduction of Roadside Impairment Testing 2014

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has launched its roadside impairment testing awareness campaigns on the 27 November 2014. Roadside Impairment Testing (RIT) provides An Garda Síochána with additional powers to test drivers whom they suspect of driving under the influence of drugs (DUID). As part of the new test drivers will be required to undergo five impairment tests; a Pupil Dilation Test, Modified Romberg Balance Test, Walk and Turn Test, One Leg Stand and lastly a Finger to Nose Test.

Roadside impairment testing:

**Test 1:** Pupillary Examination – A Garda will ask a motorist to look straight ahead and keep their eyes open, and will measure the driver's pupil for dilation.

**Test 2:** Romberg Tests – A Garda will ask the driver to do a short counting exercise with their eyes closed, which measures balance and an awareness of body positioning.

**Test 3:** Walk and Turn – A Garda will ask the driver to walk 9 steps along a straight line and turn without counting aloud. This measures both balance and ability to focus.

**Test 4:** One Leg Stand – A Garda will ask the driver to stand on one leg for approx 8 counts. This measures ability to balance.

**Test 5:** Finger to Nose – A Garda will ask the driver to touch his/her nose with both right and left index fingers with eyes closed. This measures ability to perform a basic motor task.

To support the introduction of Road Side Impairment Testing the RSA have produced a new 30 second TV advert to raise awareness of with An Garda Síochána's new powers and raise awareness around the dangers of drug driving. It also included radio, online and cinema advertising.