

# End Compulsory Urine Testing!

Service User Rights in Action Group is asking for your support in calling on Minister Aodhán Ó Ríordáin to ensure that compulsory (non court ordered) and routine urine testing in methadone services is ended without any further delay.

Please write to the Minister now outlining the following points:

## No clinical justification for routine urine testing

2010 Review of the Methadone Treatment Protocol carried out for the HSE by Prof. Michael Farrell made the following recommendations:

- That frequent testing be stopped
- Supervision of urine testing should be eliminated
- A wider clinical assessment with focus on a number of dimensions would be more acceptable from a service user perspective.

## The call to end routine urine testing is supported by people involved in all aspects of drugs work and drug services

Service User Rights in Action (SURIA) was set up as a coalition of drug service users, service user representatives and community activists. SURIA has held a dialogue, facilitated by Community Action Network (CAN), with key people from all aspects of service: HSE practitioners, G.P.s, Policy representatives, Community and Voluntary reps. There was a general consensus in support of ending compulsory testing but agreement that where a service user elects to testing, it should be available.

## Human rights violations

We believe, that compulsory urine sampling violates basic human rights including: the right to privacy, dignity, respect, adequate health and choice (*Article 25 of UN Declaration of Human Rights and Article 12 of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Article 11 of the European Social Charter*).

**So why is compulsory routine urine testing still happening in our drug services?**

**It needs to end now!** For further

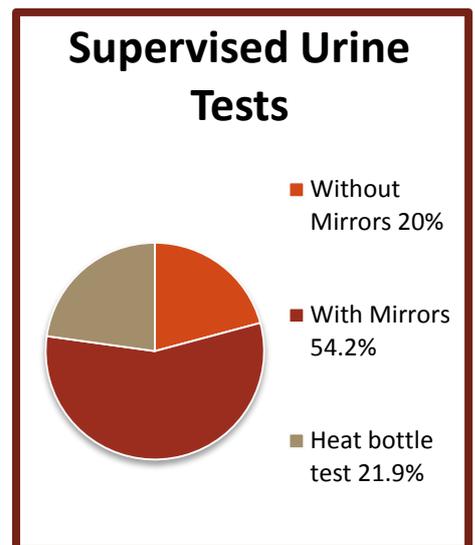
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## Urine Testing is Degrading

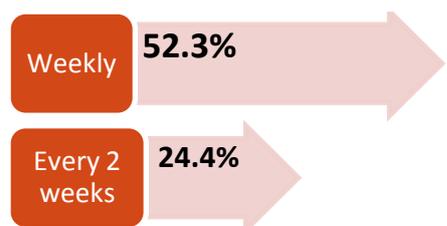
In 2013, Service User Rights in Action carried out a consultation with service users and the following findings are from 107 questionnaires:

**65.7% found urine testing degrading**

## How tests are supervised:



## Frequency of tests:



## WHY?