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# Electronic monitoring: more than an alternative to custody

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# Introduction

- Electronic monitoring is a technological tool with diverse uses and purposes
  - reduce prison populations, costs and reoffending
  - Punish, control or aid rehabilitation
  - Increase compliance
  - Public protection
- Location monitoring
  - Static
  - Mobile
- Its use has spread across the world and especially in Europe
- Private sector involvement

# The technology

- Currently available
  - Radio Frequency (RF)
  - GPS tracking
    - Offenders/victims
  - Remote alcohol monitoring/SCRAM
  - Voice Verification



# Current applications in England and Wales

- Court bail
- Curfew requirements on Community Orders, Suspended Sentence Orders
  - Standalone
  - One of several conditions
- Home Detention curfews
- SCRAM/alcohol pilot

# EM in England and Wales

- Use by the courts and prisons
  - RF only
  - High proportion of standalone curfews
  - Large scale - 14,000 (March 2014)
  - Standardised - hours
- Effectiveness
  - 'Habit-breaking'
- Compliance rates vary
  - Offenders (sex, age), length of order, curfew hours
  - Procedures for follow up after violations



# Near Futures

- New contracts
- Expansionist
  - Increasing numbers
  - New uses
- Increased use of GPS
- Hybrid tags
- Increasing attempts to regulate e.g. Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)4 on electronic monitoring

# Key questions

- Creativity
- Effectiveness
  - Compliance
    - How much should we assist?
  - (Re)offending/(re)conviction
  - Public protection
  - Alternative to prison
  - Evidence of offending
- Efficiency
- Link with probation supervision
- Proportionality
- Diversity



# The Police and GPS tracking

- Significant number of police forces are now using GPS
- Separate to offender management use of EM
- Each force is using it slightly differently
- Usually located in Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Units
  - Teams of police, probation and prison service staff co-located in police station or probation officers.
- GPS is usually police-led within these teams
- Target offenders are prolific property offenders



# ‘Assisted desistance’?

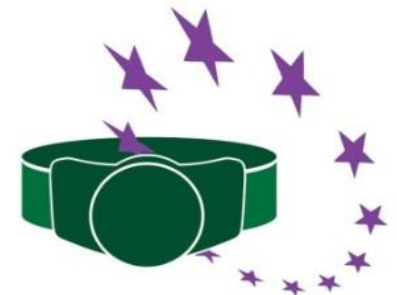
- ‘Voluntary’ schemes – offenders consent is required
- All forces are operating ‘tough choices’ regime to a greater or lesser extent
- Incentives for offenders according to the police
  - Less hassle from the police for them and their families
  - Demonstrate that they are not committing offences generally
  - Demonstrate that they have not committed a particular offence(s)
  - Access to support, constructive activities and assistance and food parcels
  - Greater freedom than RF - gives them confidence and flexibility

# Advantages for the police

- Reduce costs
  - Investigations
  - Number of suspects in police detention
- Crime fighting and intelligence gathering
  - Police own the data and have (almost) immediate access to tracks etc
  - Data includes tracks – speed, heat maps (intensity)
  - Data can be linked to Google maps, CCTV and ANPR
  - Track associations – others on GPS and beacons

# Current EU project

- ‘Creativity and effectiveness in the use of electronic monitoring as an alternative to imprisonment in EU member states’
- Funded by European Commission DG Justice
- 5 jurisdictions: Belgium, England and Wales, Germany, The Netherlands and Scotland
- Conference: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 in London
- Website [www.emeu.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.emeu.leeds.ac.uk)
- Twitter [@EMintheEU](https://twitter.com/EMintheEU)



# Conclusion

- Here to stay
- Increased use
- Increased use of GPS
- Move away from idea that EM is an alternative to custody
- Chance to influence the shape of EM now