



A TAG TEAM WITH THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE PUBLIC PROTECTION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Mounting pressure on the prison population in many countries, coupled with an increasing focus on socially responsible interventions, means a safe and secure alternative for offender management is crucial to a well functioning criminal justice system.

Electronic monitoring – or ‘tagging’ – has become a key tool for criminal justice agencies as it allows an alternative to custody by monitoring offenders effectively in the community under a curfew. It provides a robust, disciplined, and cost effective means of monitoring offenders who are carrying out community sentences, are on bail pending a court hearing, or who have been released early from a prison or youth custody sentence and are subject to special conditions.

The technology provides a means of constant monitoring to ensure offenders are staying within the conditions of their sentence and obeying time curfews.

G4S is the world's largest provider of electronic monitoring services, with operations in the UK, USA, Israel, the Netherlands, Jersey, Isle of Man and New Zealand. G4S monitors the movements of 43,000 offenders worldwide every day.

As the UK's leading provider of electronic monitoring, G4S has worked closely with the Ministry of Justice since tagging was first rolled out nationally in 1999. In England and Wales, G4S now monitors around 12,000 people, and the increasing caseload signals growing stakeholder confidence in the system – and G4S's expertise as a valued delivery partner.

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“Post-release licenses or Home Detention Curfews (HDCs) currently save around 2,300 prison places in the UK, the equivalent of four new prisons.”



It is just past 7pm and in the G4S central control centre in Manchester the team are monitoring an electronic signal that flags an offender has broken their curfew. It could be nothing – perhaps they are delayed on the bus or train – but it may indicate a slip back into criminal activity. With public protection the priority, it calls for immediate action.

The G4S computer system is programmed to alert the team to anything which may be a violation of a curfew by an individual offender. If there is, the operations team is ready to provide a rapid response at any time.

G4S receives notification from a court or prison, and its team arrives the same day to install its tagging system in the offender's home or other designated place of curfew. From this point on, those 'on a tag' must watch the clock – a restriction of their liberty which is designed to both reduce opportunities to offend and to disrupt their pattern of offending.

If the offender is not back home at the designated time, it is flagged through the system to the G4S control room and results in the appropriate enforcement action. This action is dependent on the order type and seriousness of the violation but can mean anything from a telephone call or visit, to arrest by the police, return to court, or immediate recall to prison.

For the public, it gives reassurance of increased protection from

offenders released back into the community. But it's about much more than simple punishment and control.

Richard Morris, Managing Director of Electronic Monitoring at G4S Care & Justice Services, explains: “The introduction of regularity and a more structured, disciplined routine – often combined with supervision and unpaid work requirements managed by the Probation Service – supports rehabilitation and can be the catalyst to change behaviour positively.”

This G4S view is supported by independent research from the University of Leeds, UK, which reports that 68% of people monitored electronically by tagging intended to stop offending; more than 40% had reduced their alcohol consumption or drug use; and personal relationships had improved as more time was spent in a home or family environment. Tagging also allows offenders to benefit from education, training or employment whilst monitored in the community.

The system has demonstrable cost benefits to the taxpayer. National Audit Office statistics show that a 90-day curfew costs just one fifth of the costs of a prison term for the same period; and as a robust alternative to custody, it reduces pressure on the prison population.

Key to the system's success is its effectiveness, technology, and experienced G4S team members who can deal with the technical, security and ethical requirements of the job in hand. It's here



that G4S draws on its decade of expertise in criminal justice partnerships around the globe.

The technology is proven but remains subject to independent and rigorous checks – including being burnt, submerged, dropped and hit, and attempts made to tamper with or trick the signal – to ensure it remains immune to tampering. Any attempt to do so – or to remove the equipment altogether – immediately alerts control centre staff.

Richard Morris says: “The equipment is tamperproof. It features built-in safeguards including alarms and detection mechanisms. I’ve heard people say that ice interferes with the signal if you put your feet in the freezer or a bucket, but it’s simply not true; you’ll just get cold feet! If someone interferes with the equipment, we’ll know about it.”

A deliberate attempt to interfere with the equipment is a serious violation of curfew and where curfews are part of a community sentence this could result in an extended curfew period or prison sentence. In these cases, a G4S specialist team of enforcement officers may produce a summons for an offender to appear in court, or present case evidence to prove malicious damage. This responsibility, which in other countries is often the responsibility of state criminal justice agencies, demonstrates the capability of G4S and its people.

In May 2008, this capability led to the secondment of G4S

employees to the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Units of both Lancashire and West Yorkshire Police. IOM units are a multi-agency approach to community policing involving the Probation Service, Prison Service, Youth Offending Team and Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) and are designed to better manage known and problematic offenders in their communities.

Richard Morris explained: “We wanted to make a more intelligent use of the information to help the police manage targeted offenders more effectively.”

Acting as an internal source of knowledge, the G4S team have real time access to individual offenders’ monitoring information, including records of visits and telephone contacts. This, coupled with the police’s expertise in analysis, forms a critical intelligence resource to support efforts not just to ‘catch and convict’ but to prevent and deter offending altogether.

Karen Edwards, Inspector, Lancashire Police, says: “G4S provides reliable and invaluable intelligence for Integrated Offender Management. I believe they will continue to be an integral part of our work in the future, through the IOM unit.”

It’s the latest development in a partnership which has fostered closer relationships, faster information sharing and inter-agency efficiencies. G4S has taken electronic monitoring into the mainstream of local Integrated Offender Management (IOM), limiting opportunities to re-offend and increasing public protection.

Our welfare and prosperity depend on being able to create a safe and secure society. Sadly, in a world increasingly full of risk, we have to focus even more on those challenges. When we do, however, most of us focus on the downside. At G4S, we believe that in every security challenge there is an opportunity to unlock hidden benefits that can help us to thrive and prosper.

The key to releasing wider benefits for our clients is to always look at the bigger picture and consider solutions that transform performance. To do this, we deliver world class project management that brings together our expertise in logistics, technology, managing one of the world's largest international workforces, and the knowledge derived from providing offender management and rehabilitation services in the justice sector in diverse regulatory environments around the world. By doing this, we offer governments and businesses secure solutions that deliver more than the sum of their parts.

By looking at the challenge of managing and rehabilitating the offender population more holistically, we contribute to a secure justice system which provides value-for-money quality and ensures the safety and welfare of those within the justice system.

Recognise that the most secure and beneficial solutions come from understanding the whole problem and the interdependence of parts. Let us help you to see the opportunities that exist in the challenge of securing your world.

**Transforming security challenges
into opportunities.**

