

Who gets put on a location tag?

You have been given this leaflet because the offender or defendant has been put on a location tag.

Not all offenders or defendants are being put on location tags. This depends on where they live (tags are being rolled-out region by region) and what sentence they are carrying out.

People serving the following court orders may be considered for location tags:

- Community Orders
- Suspended Sentence Orders
- Court-imposed bail

For post-custody offenders, a tag can be used for:

- Home Detention Curfew
- Life Sentences
- Sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPPs)
- Extended Determinate Sentences (EDS)

Changing tagging conditions

The Offender Manager can ask for changes to location monitoring conditions through the court, prison or Parole Board, depending on what sentence is being served.

This could mean that conditions are altered (e.g. an exclusion zone is changed), or the tag is removed or added.

For Parole Board cases, your Victims Liaison Unit officer can let you know of any proposed changes and will discuss these with you if you have chosen to be part of the Victim Contact Scheme. For court-imposed cases, please contact the police to discuss changes to tagging conditions.

What a tag can and can't do

A tag can

- Encourage the offender not to go into an exclusion zone, because they'll know that we will know.
- Prove that an offender has breached. The responsible officer can use this evidence to decide whether to arrest them or recall them to prison.
- Reassure you that it will no longer be your word against theirs if they do breach.

A tag cannot

- Stop someone going into an exclusion zone.
- Cause an offender to be immediately arrested if they breach.

Further information

For information about location monitoring, please visit:

www.gov.uk/electronic-tags

For information on what support is available:

www.gov.uk/get-support-as-a-victim-of-crime

Victim Support Charity: 01623 424948

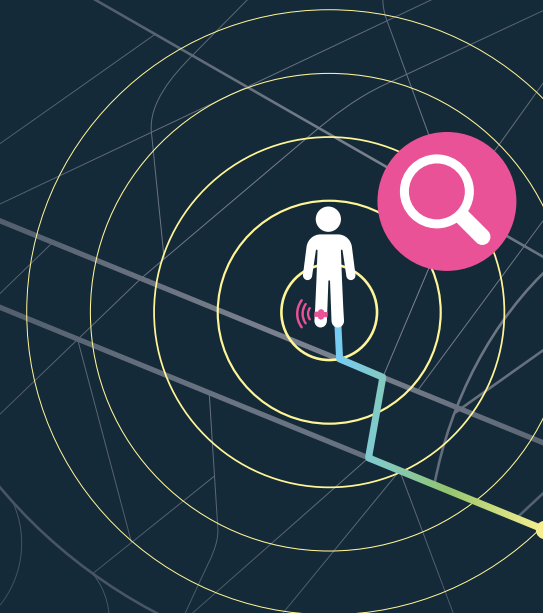


HM Prison &
Probation Service



LOCATION MONITORING

Information for victims



This leaflet explains what happens when an offender or defendant is released on a location monitoring (GPS) tag. You have been given this leaflet because the offender or defendant has been given a condition that their location is going to be monitored using a tag.

How does the tag work?

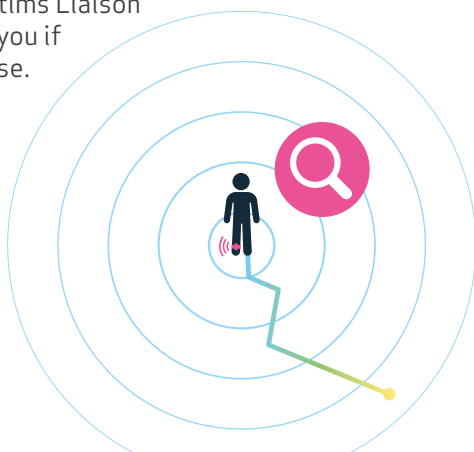
Location tags use GPS technology to monitor someone's location **retrospectively**, to check that they have gone to particular places or have avoided other areas.

The purpose of tags is to encourage the offender not to break their conditions. They also provide assurance that the offender is being monitored, so that if they do break them, appropriate further action can be taken.

The tag works by constantly transmitting the wearer's location via satellite to a monitoring centre run by Electronic Monitoring Services (EMS).

The wearer will be instructed not to enter a specific area, or to be at particular places at certain times, as part of their **conditions**.

Some of these conditions may relate to you. For example, the offender could be instructed not to enter the area where you live or work. The court, prison or Victims Liaison Unit will tell you if this is the case.



! Note: for cases where it is important that the offender does not know your location, the people setting zones have been advised to draw them in a way that keeps this information concealed.

Breaches

If the wearer breaks any of their location monitoring conditions, this is called a **breach**.

A breach depends on the conditions that have been set for the individual and could include:

- entering an exclusion zone (going into an area that they have been banned from)
- not attending an appointment (e.g. work, or an alcoholism or anger management course)
- breaking or damaging tag equipment, or letting the tag run out of battery

If the wearer commits a breach:

1. A notification will be sent to the monitoring centre.
2. The tag gives detailed information. EMS will be told, for example, how long the offender was in an exclusion zone, the route they took and how quickly they travelled through it.
3. EMS will notify the responsible officer for that case on the same day (where possible). The responsible officer will decide what action to take. These options include formally warning the offender or defendant, referring them back to court or taking them back into custody.

! The responsible officer is the offender's Probation Officer if they are serving a community sentence, or they are released from custody. If the offender or defendant is on court bail, the police will be the responsible agency.



Your safety

It is important that you still take precautions about your safety, because a tag does not remove all risk of the offender breaching.

If you are concerned about your safety, call the police.

! Important: EMS aims to contact the responsible officer about breaches as quickly as possible. If breaches happen in the evening, it is possible that the responsible officer will not be told until the following morning. Once received, the Probation Officer or police will assess the event and respond accordingly.

Informing the responsible officer of breaches also does not guarantee that the police will be informed, or that they will take action immediately. It is up to the responsible officer to decide how to deal with a breach.

How long will the offender or defendant be on a location tag?

If the offender or defendant has been given a tag by a court, the court will decide how long they will be on tag. The tag will have a limited timeframe – the offender will **not be on tag forever**.

If the offender has been given a tag by the Parole Board, the tag will be regularly reviewed by the Offender Manager. It will be assumed that the tag will be removed **after six months**, unless it is decided that it is necessary and proportionate to continue monitoring.