

# Cryptocurrency



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

Cryptocurrency also known as crypto is any currency that exists digitally and uses cryptography to secure transactions. It can be used to contribute to an illicit economy within establishments and the community. Staff may discover or suspect they have discovered crypto wallets, private keys or seed phrases that are associated with crypto.

## Crypto Wallets



Crypto wallets are used to store private keys to prevent the user losing access to their funds or somebody else having access.

Wallets are available in multiple forms including, encrypted applications on devices, paper wallets that display a QR code for access and hardware wallets that appear to look like hard drives or USBs.

## Private keys

Private keys are usually stored in crypto wallets but staff may discover them written down.

Private Keys are slightly different depending on the currency and are often written in hexadecimal (meaning they contain the Characters 0 to 9, and a to f)

Remember:

Establishments are to clarify with the PLO or local police if a criminal investigation will take place before sending crypto related items to DMIU for further investigation.

## Seed Phrases

There is no central authority for the recovery of lost private keys, and for backup many cryptocurrencies have a second way of accessing wallets called a recovery seed or a recovery phrase.

A recovery seed is a sequence of 12 to 25 words in a specific order which may appear in English as well as multiple other languages.

1. Waterfall	13. Glove
2. Indigo	14. Time
3. Honey	15. Cloud
4. Aware	16. Noise
5. Sunlight	17. Sheet
6. Table	18. North
7. Cannon	19. Bus
8. Rich	20. Goat
9. Toast	21. Cold
10. Marble	22. Rome
11. Run	23. Key
12. Give	24. Sponge

## Support

Should you have any queries or requests for further information on cryptocurrency, please contact the Cyber Threat Team (cyber and digital security queries) – [CyberHQ@justice.gov.uk](mailto:CyberHQ@justice.gov.uk)

For further information on evidence handling please contact [Security.Procedures@justice.gov.uk](mailto:Security.Procedures@justice.gov.uk)