

# ELECTRONIC MONITORING

## What is electronic monitoring?

Electronic monitoring (EM) – or tagging – is used to monitor curfews set as a condition of bail or licence or as a requirement of a community sentence. A curfew means that the individual must remain in a place specified by the court or prison for between 2 and 12 hours a day.

EM is not the same as satellite tracking. The technology is designed to show if a person is in their place of curfew during the hours of their curfew: it does not show their location 24/7.

EM was one of the reforms within the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 and it was introduced throughout Northern Ireland on 1 April 2009. The service is provided by G4S on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office.



## Who can be given an EM requirement?

The court or prison decides if individuals (aged 10 and above) are suitable for an EM requirement on a case by case basis, using guidance from the police, Probation Board or Youth Justice Agency where appropriate.

EM requirements must last for a minimum of 14 days. In order to be electronically monitored, the individual must be curfewed to an address with an electricity supply. Where applicable, the homeowner or tenant must give their permission for the person to be monitored from that address.

## How does EM work?

EM works using an electronic tag and a Home Monitoring Unit. The tag is fitted to the person's ankle and must be worn at all times. The tag is lightweight, shockproof, water resistant and robust; meaning that individuals can continue all of their normal daily activities, including swimming and playing sport, whilst wearing it.

The Unit is installed at the curfew address. The tag sends signals to the Unit and this information is relayed to G4S's Monitoring Centre in Manchester.

If the individual leaves or is absent from their curfew address during their curfew period the signal is broken and an alert sent to the G4S Monitoring Centre. An alert is also sent if the Unit or tag is damaged; if the Unit is moved or unplugged; or if the tag is removed.



## What happens if an individual breaks their curfew?

Once a curfew violation is recorded, G4S confirm that it has taken place and inform the appropriate authority. For those on bail, this is the police. In all other cases, the Probation Board or the Youth Justice Agency is notified.

The relevant body will decide upon enforcement action on a case by case basis. This may take the form of a written warning but the individual could also be returned to court or recalled to prison.

## What are the benefits of EM?

EM provides a robust system for the enforcement of curfews and can promote public protection by enhancing the supervision of individuals in the community. Curfews can also help to impose structure and discipline on an individual's daily routine; break patterns of offending behaviour and enable participation in work, education or training.

## Where can I find more information?

The Sentencing Reform website - [www.sentencingreformNI.gov.uk](http://www.sentencingreformNI.gov.uk) - contains information on all of the sentencing reforms within the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008, including electronic monitoring. The EM Project Team can be contacted at: [CJPD.em@nio.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CJPD.em@nio.x.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone 028 9052 7506.