# HM Prison & Probation Service

Operational Security Group

Directorate of Security

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**July 2024**

Dear All,

**Prisoner Escort Contractors Services (PECS) – Updated**

This note is to advise prisons that a central authorisation has been provided under section 40E of the Prison Act in respect of any prison or Young Offender Institution for Prisoner Escort Contractors (GeoAmey, Tascor, Serco etc) undertaking delivery/collection of prisoners the following technology:

**Mobile Phones**

PECS are authorised to convey into the prison, possess and use within the prison, and take out of the prison an approved work issued mobile device for logging details of prisoners and to allow escort staff to record related prisoner-information such as potential security risks, self-harm issues and medical needs.

PECS are also authorised to use these devices to transmit information from inside the prison for simultaneous reception outside the prison if this is required for operational purposes.

**Technology Devices**

PECS Suppliers can take the technology described below into all HMPPS Prison Establishments.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Devices Employed by both GEOAmey and Serco** |  |
| * **Microlise**
	+ Current technology - It is provided in the form of a tablet secured into the front cab of a vehicle. It provides a tracking and telematics functionally, trip sheet, integrated satellite navigation, task management and ability for voice calls and text messages.
 | Graphical user interface  Description automatically generated |
| **Devices Employed by Serco** |  |
| * **VERA - Vehicle Escort Recording Application**
	+ The Samsung A23 mobile device will replace the Samsung A20 for vehicle escorts and the Huawei tablet in the courts. The A20 models will be phased out.
	+ The device is fully locked to the VERA application only, there is no voice capability
 | A picture containing text, electronics, light  Description automatically generated |
| **Devices Employed by GEOAmey** |  |
| * Samsung Galaxy Tab A8 LTE 8 inch tablet device
	+ The Samsung Tab A8 supports the GEOTransport application, employed to record the movement of subjects from Prison or custody suite locations to court attendance and for any subsequent onward journeys. Devices are data only and do not have any voice capability. The device will be fixed into a holder carried by the GEOAmey Officers at all times when outside of a vehicle.
 | A close-up of a cell phone  Description automatically generated with low confidence |

**Security Requirements**

* Prisons must log the devices in and out of the prison, any devices found to be missing must be investigated and traced by the escort contractor.
* In the event of a device being lost or stolen, the contractor will ensure that the data function of the device is disabled remotely so that it cannot be used.
* Personal mobile phones must be handed in at the gate and secured in a locker for the duration of the visit.

The above authorisation relates only to the lawfulness of the conduct for the purpose of the offences in the Prison Act 1952.  Individual prisons or groups of prisons may impose additional administrative restrictions on items allowed into the prison on grounds of security. All items must be checked in and out of the prison. Loss of such items within the prison is a serious matter and all losses must be reported to the prison immediately.

This central authorisation is currently being held on file and will be incorporated into the NSF Central Authorisations List in the future.



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**Directorate of Security**