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Electronic Monitoring: what's in it for UK policing?

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Electronic Monitoring

- Just to be clear...
 - Three kinds of EM – all involve offender wearing a tag (generally ankle tag)
 - EM curfews (coerced) – residence based – used within England and Wales for last 15 years
 - EM tracking (and exclusion) – coerced (Court order or requirement of prison release) – not yet well established within the UK
 - EM tracking (and exclusion) – voluntary (today's presentation)

Electronic Monitoring

- UK policing current usage?
 - Most of 43 forces in England and Wales
 - Voluntary, not coerced use
 - Small cohorts of prolific and priority offenders
 - Partnership with others: probation, Crown Prosecution Service, Courts, drug treatment, housing, education, employers, voluntary sector etc...
 - Nationwide number... 1,000+ cases at any one time?
 - [Note: the daily caseload is in the region of 15.000 at any one time]



Electronic Monitoring

- Benefits for the offender
 - Potential avoidance of custody
 - Less ‘police attention’
 - Protection from routine suspicion by professionals
 - Improved relationships with professionals
 - Reassurance to family and friends
 - Desistance from crime – physical and psychological deterrent
 - Easier separation from criminal associates
 - Rehabilitation?



Electronic Monitoring

- Benefits for professionals/the public
 - Less crime! Fewer victims of crime
 - More efficient use of policing resources:
 - Focus on non-tagged suspects
 - Less investigation time against tracked subjects
 - Daily data comparisons against crime time/locations
 - Good evidence when they have committed crime...
 - Avoidance of needless arrests
 - Useful intelligence gathering on tracked subjects
 - Assists police/probation in day to day management



Electronic Monitoring

- Challenges...
 - Tag on its own is not a panacea
 - Deliberate damage to, or loss of tag
 - Some changing of crime type, eg from burglary to shoplifting or drug dealing
 - Battery charging
 - Establishing a routine
 - Implications for coerced tracking
 - Managing public expectation

Electronic Monitoring

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