

## IT News

### Multimedia evidence

The next development in the move away from ‘hard copies’ of evidence will be introduced on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The CPS are moving away from service of multimedia on DVDs and towards the ‘Cloud’ based solution already used for the Digital Case System, and Body Worn Video evidence in some Areas.

From 16<sup>th</sup> April all recorded ABE interviews will no longer be distributed by discs but will be available digitally.

Later this year it is anticipated that the same system will be used for all multimedia material, including unused material.

Where the material is not already accessible from a digital platform, it will be available from a website called Egress. To access it you must first register and thereafter it can be accessed by clicking on a link that will be embedded in the IDPC or which will subsequently be sent by email to instructing solicitors.

From the 19<sup>th</sup> March all solicitors’ firms and Chambers will receive information about how to register and access the material.

There will be stringent conditions surrounding the downloading and storage of this material which will include agreeing to an ‘undertaking’ [not in the formal sense which applies to

litigation undertakings, but which will govern your right to access the material] to only store the material on an encrypted [not just password protected] computer or other device or medium, not to copy the material except in specific circumstances, not to disclose it to others and to destroy it at the conclusion of your involvement in the case. This mirrors the sort of undertaking which is currently signed on receipt of DVDs containing this material.

The media will initially be available in an .mp4 file format or .VOB format, although work is continuing to increase the volume of multimedia evidence provided in .mp4 format. The issue at present is that the police still submit a lot of multimedia evidence in .VOB format. Where footage is provided in .mp4 format it can be streamed in Egress; for .VOB files the footage must be downloaded in order to view it.

We are urged to make absolutely sure that this material is only stored in an encrypted form. We are all familiar with the lax security surrounding the use of DVDs and USB sticks, but as you can only download this on to an encrypted computer [if you do not you will be in breach of the conditions of use, the law governing data protection and your professional code of conduct] it removes most, if not all, the scope to fall foul of the rules governing data protection.

## Clickshare

Those of you who read these bulletins will be familiar with my Clickshare travails.

I would like to share with you the name and email address of my 'guru' at the MoJ who has resolved all problems in the past; he has invited me to do this so that if you find a courtroom where Clickshare is not working with your Mac, and the Court staff say it's your problem, you can contact him. The machinery to update the errant courtroom in question will grind into action: it is usually fixed within 24 hours.

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