



Media Evidence Recording Equipment



What is this?

With the move away from physical discs to cloud based multi-media, the scenario of a deliberating jury returning to the courtroom to review exhibits is becoming more common. HMCTS is implementing a technology solution which allows multimedia exhibits to be recorded to an SD card as they are shown to a jury. The recording devices will be installed in all courtrooms and situated on the clerk's desk. The SD card containing the recordings can then be provided to the jury as an exhibit when they retire, allowing them to review the footage on a screen in their retiring room.

What media can the devices record?

They can capture anything that is presented to the jury via the courtroom TV screens. This includes all digital media shown using ClickShare: videos, photographs, documents and audio such as 999 calls. The recording is manually activated, so unsuitable material (such as ABE) will not be recorded and will not be provided to the jury.

How are the advocates involved in recording?

The judge, with the assistance of the advocates, should decide which exhibits are suitable for recording. The clerk will then be responsible for operating the device.

Where a trial features suitable media evidence, the advocates should alert the clerk (when they request a jury panel and confirm the ELH). This will ensure that an SD card has been obtained and the device is ready for use.

During the trial, the clerk should be asked to press the button to start the recording, before the advocates have begun presenting the media to the jury.

Are the advocates involved in checking the recordings?

Once the court has heard all evidence, the recordings on the SD card must be checked before being handed to the jury to ensure that they are agreed. In this instance, the recordings will be no different to any other exhibit made available to the jury in retirement (CrimPD VI 26L.1-3).

Whilst the judge will have ultimate responsibility, it is anticipated that in most instances the judge will ask the advocates to check the contents of the SD card and confirm they are agreed that the correct material is present and appropriate for the jury to view in retirement. This check will be facilitated by the clerk.