

Project START – Short Term at Release Tagging (RCT)

This RCT explores whether a voluntary tagging programme in Hampshire results in a reduction in reoffending.

Key details

Status	Complete
Lead institution	University of Cambridge
Principal researcher(s)	Supt Paul Bartolomeo Paul.bartolomeo@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
Police region	Eastern
Collaboration and partnership	Hampshire Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire.
Level of research	Masters
Project start date	June 2013
Date completed	November 2014

Hypothesis

Short term tagging of custody releases causes a reduction in subsequent offending compared with those not receiving a tag.

Geographical area

Across the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Target sample size

250 across both the treatment and control group.

Participants - inclusion criteria

- Detained in HMP Winchester
- Released to an address in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight
- Over 18 and male
- Not on court order or bail
- Not on home detention curfew
- Not a MAPPA subject
- Not previously been tagged under this scheme
- Offender consents to being tagged

Interventions

No additional interventions other than routine support by IOM officers and staff across the whole sample.

Study design

Randomised control trial, using a web based randomiser, to separate one treatment group receiving a tag and one control group not receiving one. One treatment (the wearing of the tag) both groups volunteers, detailed eligibility criteria.

Summary of findings

Final report: [Implementing a police led voluntary tagging programme and a randomised controlled trial to evaluate the effects on reoffending](#)