THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR

The advance of technology is bringing many benefits – time savings, cost savings, increased accuracy, greater flexibility. Yet some police officers still have to manage witness statement information using inefficient manual paper processes and multiple IT systems.

For some forces, taking a witness statement today still involves typing and scanning details from handwritten statements into a crime system which on average can take police staff in a single force around 360 hours a month. In addition, a significant number of statements require re-typing for court cases. This can take, on average, over 500 hours a month, and the manual duplication can lead to inaccuracies.

That’s up to 860 hours a month that could be spent on front line policing.

Even more time is wasted when, in up to a third of cases, the officer has to get to a police station immediately with the statement if it is needed to progress an investigation. That is potentially valuable time lost in an investigation, as well as taking officers away from the community.

Proven to be admissible in courts in England, Scotland and Wales, the Pronto Electronic Witness Statement (Pronto EWS) from Motorola Solutions utilises the Pronto e-notebook. By digitising the witness statement process, Pronto EWS has the potential to save the police service more than £12 million per year on paper and administration costs.

Pronto EWS enables officers to capture witness statements, associated information and images, in electronic format, at any location, at any time. The statement is able to be completed whether or not the statement taker is in or out of network coverage, and can be submitted wirelessly and immediately to the relevant case file and / or to partner agencies such as the Crown Prosecution Service.

HOW WE CAN HELP

- Cut bureaucracy
- Save time and money
- Increase accuracy, help professionalise the service and improve perceptions of police from victims and general public
- Enable more front line policing

BENEFITS

- Officers do not have to return to the station to complete and submit witness statements, saving time
- Information does not need to be manually duplicated, eliminating the opportunity for errors
- All information is in permanent electronic format, and can be re-used wherever necessary
- Images can be captured and added to the statement file
- Statements are stored in a central database enabling rapid access by relevant personnel
- Officers have reported that capturing witness statements digitally makes them feel more professional and helps them provide the public with a better service

EVIDENCE OF SAVING

- Trials involving Pronto EWS have demonstrated that 15 mins can be saved per statement
- The same trials demonstrated that there was a saving in travel time of up to 12 mins per statement
- There was an average saving in back-office and court time of 1 hour and 15 mins
- One Motorola Solutions customer who has been using electronic witness statements since 2009 has generated over 300,000 witness statements. This means a total of 510,000 hours have been saved using Pronto EWS. This equates to a minimum of £12,500,000 saved since 2009.

These are just some of the opportunities and cost savings Pronto EWS could provide to your force, paying for itself fully within a single year.
RETURN ON INVESTMENT
Elimination of multiple entries, filing, scanning and general administration will ensure that the solution pays for itself fully within a single year.

All information captured by Pronto EWS conforms to NPIA specifications, including:
- Creation of electronic witness statement
- Capture of typed statement meeting NPIA electronic witness statement business rules — including the lockdown of statement in blocks of 10 lines
- Review of electronic witness statement and capture of electronic signature by the witness and/or appropriate responsible person
- Electronic witness statement lockdown to prevent any changes to the statement
- Storage of electronic witness statement into a central database
- Ability to create a continuation or follow on statement from an existing statement — copying across relevant structured data and entering an automatic cross-referenced log entry
- View, save and print as a PDF
- Ability to search for captured statements in a central database
- Ability to export a selected statement in XML format
- Data verified as original using a digital signature

PRONTO EWS IN ACTION
The Pronto e-notebook and EWS secures the first conviction with digital evidence.

The first case of electronic information created by a police officer accepted in court in England used Pronto EWS under the NPIA electronic witness statement & digital signature pilot programme.

A Surrey police officer used the Pronto e-notebook and EWS to record information about a fixed penalty notice issued for a road traffic offence. When the offender contested the penalty in court the officer was able to present the electronic notes recorded at the time of the incident. Once entered, the information cannot be altered. This authenticity helped to convict the offender.

Following the recent Home Office/NPIA electronic witness statement trial it was concluded that Police notes and witness statements are a vital part of the criminal justice process as they are used as evidence. Therefore, it is crucial that these documents can be proven to be authentic and easily accessible to police officers and lawyers.

This new initiative will potentially allow front line officers to type police notes and witness statements without having to return to the police station making the whole process more efficient and cost-effective at the touch of a button.

Pronto EWS is just one of over 30 police business processes that are currently deployed to a quarter of police forces throughout Great Britain.

We are committed to supporting business transformation and have already helped deliver millions of pounds worth of cashable savings in these police forces.

Pronto EWS supports the digital evidence strategy and can be integrated to provide a case preparation system, via our incident folders, or designed to send information into existing force case preparation systems as required.

It also supports a fully integrated information management system that can be designed to link witness statements to other electronic reports such as Crimes, Road Collisions, Sudden Deaths etc., creating fully digitised and paperless policing.