

## **Bordua, Karine JAG:EX**

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**From:** Cornett, Kathy M JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 4:41 PM  
**To:** Currie, Sylvia JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Hoskins, Jeannie JAG:EX; Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Rose, Cindy JAG:EX; Lapsley, Amy JAG:EX  
**Subject:** DSG APPROVED: 505500 - BN re Electronic Monitoring  
**Attachments:** 505500\_BN\_EM-Oct14.docx  
  
**Importance:** High

The attached BN has been approved by Lori, and it has been uploaded to the Minister's SP site for the November 3, 2014 briefing (item 4 @ 5:15 pm).

Thank you, Kathy

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**From:** Currie, Sylvia JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2014 12:45 PM  
**To:** Cornett, Kathy M JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Rose, Cindy JAG:EX; Lapsley, Amy JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Electronic Monitoring BN for MSA  
**Importance:** High

Kathy,

As requested, attached for Lori's review is the BN re electronic monitoring, for the Minister's information.

Sylvia

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**From:** Cornett, Kathy M JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 8:35 AM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Currie, Sylvia JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Electronic Monitoring BN for MSA

Hi Brent, this item has been added to the Nov 3 weekly briefing with the Minister. If we could please have the BN for the Minister's information by end of day Thursday, if possible. Lori will need to review/approve (she's going to Vancouver Friday) and I will need to upload it to the Minister's SP on Friday for the Monday briefing. Times will be confirmed closer to the date (this item currently scheduled from 4:30 to 4:45 pm).

Sylvia, if you could please confirm that Brent will be attending in person.

Thank you, Kathy

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**From:** Louie, Toby I JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2014 9:57 AM  
**To:** Cornett, Kathy M JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Klima, Judy H JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FYI: Electronic Monitoring BN for MSA

Hi Kathy – a heads-up – BN coming plus a briefing topic for week of Nov 3.

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**From:** Wanamaker, Lori JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2014 9:34 AM  
**To:** Tennant, Laura JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Louie, Toby I JAG:EX; Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Reminder: Electronic Monitoring BN for MSA

Thanks Laura. The BN that was developed is being updated based on recent information. We'll add to the minister briefing hat occurs the week of November 3.

On Oct 23, 2014, at 4:39 PM, Tennant, Laura JAG:EX <[Laura.Tennant@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Laura.Tennant@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Lori, MSA would like an BN on electronic monitoring.

Thanks  
Laura

**Laura Tennant** | Executive Assistant to the Honourable Suzanne Anton

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**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
CORRECTIONS BRANCH  
BRIEFING NOTE**

**PURPOSE:** For INFORMATION Suzanne Anton, QC, Attorney General and Minister of Justice

**ISSUE:** Electronic Monitoring

**SUMMARY:**

- After a high-risk offender under Community Corrections supervision was charged with the death of a teenager in Surrey, media criticized the province's use of electronic monitoring.
- In particular, questions were asked about the number of high-risk offenders being monitored electronically, the current technology used, and the declining number of offenders who have electronic monitoring as a condition.
- Currently, BC Corrections applies electronic supervision to offenders when it is a court-ordered condition.
- The court imposes conditions based on the risks associated with the individual.
- Generally, electronic supervision is used to monitor an individual's compliance with curfew or house arrest conditions.
- There are limitations to electronic supervision, as it cannot stop an individual who is intent on committing a crime. Additionally, the current technology used in British Columbia is passive and is limited to monitoring an offender's compliance with location and time restrictions imposed by the court.
- The Corrections Branch is reviewing the use of electronic monitoring and the resulting report, due by the end of December 2014, will examine BC Corrections' current electronic supervision model,

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**BACKGROUND:**

- s.22 have raised questions about the use of electronic supervision for high-risk offenders.
- s.22 and media have raised concerns about the use of Radio Frequency Identification technology (RFID) versus GPS technology which has the ability to track the location of offenders, the use of electronic monitoring as a tool to manage high-risk offenders, and the decline in the number of offenders placed under electronic monitoring. (See Page 3 for a breakdown by year.)

- In response, Minister Anton asked for ministry staff to review BC's electronic monitoring program.
- The Corrections Branch has engaged Chris Litton, Managing Director, Management Consulting at Sierra Systems to conduct a worldwide review of electronic supervision programs and technologies employed by modern correctional programs.
- The review will detail how electronic tools such as GPS, RFID and biometrics are being used effectively to manage and monitor offenders in North American, European and Commonwealth communities. Details will include cost and delivery models, client suitability, tracking and response methodologies, the latest technologies and published evaluations.
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### **Current use of BC's Electronic Monitoring Program**

- The BC Corrections branch has used radio frequency electronic monitoring (EM) since 1987. The estimated annual cost of the electronic supervision program is approximately \$1 million per year.
- BC Corrections makes electronic monitoring available to the court for the purpose of monitoring compliance. It is primarily used for conditional sentence orders that have house arrest and/or curfew terms. It has occasionally been used for Bail and Section 810 Recognizance supervision.
- The electronic monitoring system is passive and is limited to monitoring an offender's compliance with location and time restrictions imposed by the court.
- Electronic monitoring increases the possibility of early detection of a curfew violation, but cannot ensure that police agencies have the means to locate and arrest the subject with any certainty of timeliness.
- Electronic supervision does not track individuals and does not impede the capacity of an individual to engage in criminal activities from within the confines of the radio frequency radius, or when the accused is authorized under the terms of an order to be outside of their residence.
- In order to determine suitability for electronic supervision, or as a part of a pre-sentence report, a probation officer will conduct a home visit as part of a technical suitability report for the use of electronic monitoring. These reports ensure the client has a land line telephone for the monitoring unit and confirms the residence is suitable. In cases where a client does not have a landline, electronic supervision units with cellular technology are available.
- BC Corrections staff monitor alarm notifications at the Operational Support Unit (OSU), 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The alarms may relate to a violation of curfew compliance or equipment tampering.

- For issues that arise during regular business hours, OSU staff contact the supervising probation officer and conduct an investigation. After hours, an on-call manager provides oversight. If necessary, a home visit may be conducted during the investigation to determine cause of the alarm. Outside of business hours, the police are contacted.
- During the last decade there has been an increasing focus on GPS supervision technology. This is something BC Corrections may consider adopting.
- Ontario also uses electronic supervision, based on radio frequency technology. New Brunswick, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island (for young offenders and prolific offenders) use electronic supervision with GPS technology.

**Electronically monitored clients:**

- The table below provides the average daily number of clients in BC under electronic supervision over the past five fiscal years.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Clients Daily Average</b>
2009/2010	172
2010/2011	146
2011/2012	119
2012/2013	82
2013/2014	75

- The number of electronic supervision cases has declined, though no studies have been conducted to determine why. This may be due to a variety of reasons such as changes to the Criminal Code relating to conditional sentence orders, judicial sentencing practices and the decline in the number of people who have been sentenced to a period of community supervision. There have been no changes to the program's availability over this time period.

**Prepared by:**  
Cindy Rose  
Director  
Programs & Strategic Services  
Corrections Branch

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**Approved by:**  
Brent Merchant  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Corrections Branch

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