

Mobile Device First Response Guide

Initial handling considerations for powered, locked and connected devices.

Do not apply a single rule

A powered and unlocked device may contain volatile or decrypted data. Switching it off can make evidence inaccessible. Conversely, leaving a device connected can permit remote alteration. Seek specialist guidance.

Record state

Photograph the screen, connections, battery level, notifications, date/time and visible applications. Do not browse through content.

Isolate proportionately

Where appropriate, prevent remote communications without changing the device unnecessarily. Retain the SIM, charger and associated media.

Quick checklist

	Action
	Do not unlock or browse without authority
	Do not update or factory reset
	Photograph current state
	Record PIN/password availability securely
	Retain charger, SIM and memory card
	Contact a forensic examiner promptly

Important: This guide is general information and does not replace matter-specific legal advice or forensic direction. Do not send original evidence through ordinary email or messaging applications unless secure transfer arrangements have been agreed.