

## FIRE, HEALTH & SAFETY, SECURITY COMPLIANCE NEEDS IN PRISONS WHEN USING READERPENS/EXAMREADERS

This document has been created with the support of HMPPS Head of Security and staff teams.

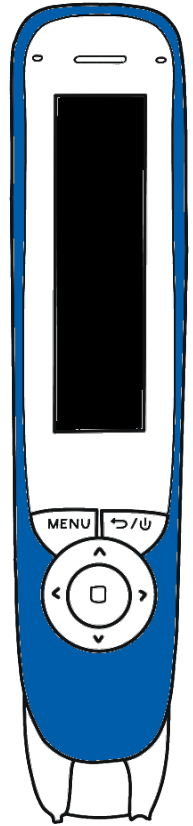
It is a starting point to help support the process of ensuring that Scanning Pens can be used securely in prison settings.

The development of this Fire, Health & Safety and Security compliance help sheet, has been essential to enabling our research projects to take place in HMPPS settings. Attention to the needs for compliance for HMPPS service use has led to the development of the ReaderPen Secure™ Scanning Pen. This enables the user to be GDPR compliant when scanning to read. ReaderPen Secure™ has no internal memory and no voice recording capacity. It does however, still contain additional languages, text to speech and dictionary functions.

Compliance research for Scanning Pens extends beyond the UK.

You may be interested to know that Scanning Pens are also being used successfully in prison educational departments in Australia and the United States. With careful compliance, Scanning Pens are becoming more widely deployed by prison authorities within education services and rehabilitation programs. This is because they provide for equality of access to written resources and are an aid to rehabilitation. Scanning Pens performs a valuable role in ensuring equality of learning for prisoners with difficulties such as dyslexia, weak literacy and also for Foreign National learners with limited ability to read or who are developing use of English language.

The potential of prisoners being able to use ReaderPen Secure™ independently in their cells is an exciting one. With many hours of available time for self-study, it would be possible for an inmate with the desire to succeed to begin to master independent reading and develop whole word recognition.



To ensure compliance, each of the protocols below have been overseen by the National Research Committee (Ministry of Justice) and individual prisons security teams. For more information on the research leading to these findings the full document provided by Christine Franklin Education Services can be found here: [www.scanningpens.co.uk/ExamReaderUK/Academic-Research-Exam-Reader-Global.html](http://www.scanningpens.co.uk/ExamReaderUK/Academic-Research-Exam-Reader-Global.html)

As security approaches can vary prison to prison. You may wish to draw upon the examples provided to inform the development of your prisons protocols.

1. To undertake product checks and then pass the pens into the educational department.
2. To provide specific instructions as to how the pens will be stored, kept and accounted for within the various prison departments to which are to be distributed.
3. To provide specific protocols to be met. For example, in the case of an individual using the pen in his cell, the prisoner was required to purchase the pen with his own money.

### MOBILE PHONE CHARGING

We have been asked by many prisons if the pen can be used to back charge a mobile phone and we can confirm that this is not possible.

## FIRE RISK

Standard 'accidental' fire risk tests were carried out by [www.cqc.com.cn/www/english/](http://www.cqc.com.cn/www/english/).

In battery testing for 'external short circuiting' which in turn may lead to the product overheating or catching fire, the pens gained a 'PASS' for no fire, no explosion and no leakage by the external accredited laboratory following the regulations of CQC.

## SECURITY COMPLIANCE, SINGLE PENS:

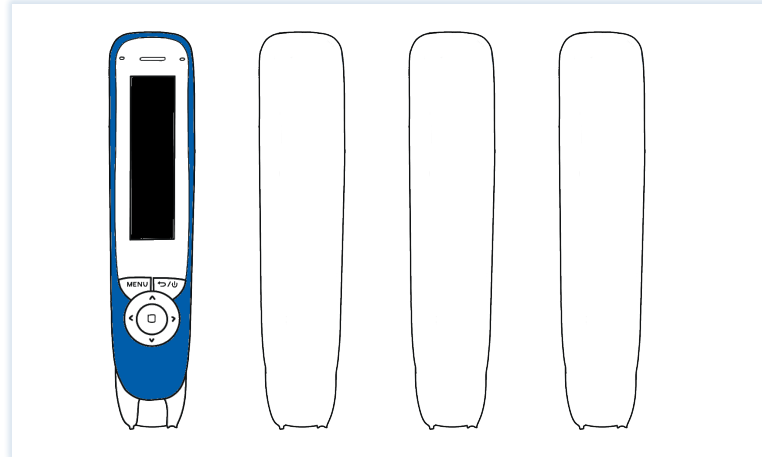
Issuing of pens from a locked 'shadow board' protocol.

A shadow board is a wall mounted cabinet with a toughened glass or a Perspex door.

Items can be easily seen when in place and identified by a blank outline when removed.

This system provides immediate visibility of an items status of in-use or in storage.

In order for pens to remained charged, charging blocks would also be stored at this station.



## CLASS PACKS OF PENS

Class packs of pens requires a different set of solutions. This is because class packs are taken with tutors to different locations for use.

In both examples each pen should be allocated a unique code number which is matched to a tool inventory and sign out procedure.

In both examples staff are responsible for taking inventory and retrieving loaned items during each session.

## IN CELL INCLUSION - ACCESS TO READING

ReaderPen Secure™ has been developed to provide support for learning without any internal memory or audio recording functions within the device. This makes the pens GDPR secure because messages cannot be recorded by voice or by scanning information to memory. The development of the ReaderPen Secure™ has removed blocks to security where this may previously been of concern.

During COVID 19 Lockdown the first prisoner was given approval for use of a ReaderPen Secure™ to be used in his cell. This step has enabled educational support to be provided while much of the education service has been reduced or completely stopped.

## PRISONER VOICE

The voices of prisoner learners who took part in the Scanning Pen research that lead to the production of this document strongly advocated use of pens and being very rewarding as an important step towards reading and learning independence.

Offering the prisoner, a chance to 'read' their own private correspondence, books and information that is of interest to their lives has been seen to create a 'hook' to take a leap of faith into the learning world. As one prisoner stated, 'That reading pen has given me another lease of, I don't know what you call it, life, interest...'.  
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Information found in this document can be read in full from the research produced by Christine Franklin here: [www.scanningpens.co.uk/ExamReaderUK/Academic-Research-Exam-Reader-Global.html](http://www.scanningpens.co.uk/ExamReaderUK/Academic-Research-Exam-Reader-Global.html)