

## University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2019

### Ref #26: UoMQStep 2019 Home Office – Is Mobile Phone Data Needed for a Conviction?

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**Organisation Name:** Home Office

**Team/Department:** Crime and Policing Analysis Unit

**Address:** 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

**Provisional title for project:** How important is mobile phone evidence in securing convictions in criminal proceedings?

In 2012, researchers from two Glasgow Universities systematically assessed how important mobile phone evidence was in appeal judgements retrieved from Westlaw, Lexis Nexis and British and Irish Legal Information Institute between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011. This project will be a replication of the Glasgow study, but on a smaller scale, i.e. a narrower timescale and a focus on just one legal database. Comparisons will be made with findings from the earlier study in terms of the size of mobile phone evidence as well as the importance of the evidence in securing convictions. We would also be interested in an assessment of which offences typically had mobile phone data associated with them. The previous study can be read [here](#).

**Key words (up to 12):** Mobile phone, police investigations, appeal proceedings, digital forensic evidence, case conclusions, convictions, increase in digital evidence, offence types.

#### Essential and desirable skills that the student would need to have:

**Essential:** Attention to detail, qualitative skills (initially) and quantitative skills (once data systematically gathered).

**Desirable:** Report writing, understanding of the CPS/ appeals process.

**Where the work would be carried out:** Ideally in CPAU, 2 Marsham Street, so that the intern could take advantage of learning opportunities in the unit and HO. However, the work could be carried out at home or University with frequent visits to CPAU for progress meetings.

**Preferred selection method (interview or other method):** Interview

**Interview preference (on campus, remote, in your office):** In office

**Support and training offered by the organisation:** Full support would be provided. We intend to scope the project in-house in advance and to initiate the project. We hope to have the knowledge to provide a thorough handover so that an intern can pick it up and make progress quickly.

**Any issues of data confidentiality and/or IPR that would need to be resolved:**

No

**Supporting information:** [Security vetting \(SC\) will be conducted before the placement starts.](#)

**Financial assistance offered by the organisation:** Should it be necessary to attend meetings away from 2 Marsham Street, all travel and out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.