



Prisoners have expressed a view that they are keen to use the Video Link facility wherever possible as this is less disruptive for them.

By utilising the Video Link the prisoner will also be able to keep any pre organised appointments and consultations within the establishment.

If the prisoner was required to be produced at Court none of the above could be attended. When the prisoner is on Video Link he could attend any of the appointments/consultations as he will not leave the establishment. Also some of these pathways can be maintained by using a pre booked Video Conference.

HMP & YOI Doncaster is currently undergoing construction work to install a new state of the art Video Conferencing Centre which is due to open later in 2020.

Further details will be published upon completion of the works.



Consultation time with Legal Representative

As previously explained on the daily routine for prisoners, there is an opportunity for the prisoner to discuss his pending case with his legal representative prior to his Court hearing. Although a designated slot of 15 minutes is automatically booked by the court, Legal Representatives may book longer, prior to the hearing, by telephoning the Video Link Clerk.

These slots should be adhered to in all circumstances as delays impact on the court and client/prisoner.

At the end of the hearing the prisoner will again have the opportunity to speak to his legal representative to clarify any details that have been discussed throughout the hearing and the next course of action.

Solicitor's conferences can be arranged anytime Mon- Fri from 08:30 hours, with the department closing at 16:30 hours.

The Government have an ongoing commitment to transform the Criminal Justice System. NOMS and HMCTS have an active part to play in the CJS Efficiency Programme and are working to increase video utilisation.

Here at HMP & YOI Doncaster we are committed to utilising the Video Link facility whilst ensuring that we maintain our high standards of practice.

With the continued support of external agencies and for the benefit of not only the public but ultimately the prisoner, we would like to ensure we continue to utilise this advantageous system and maintain current status.



HMP & YOI Doncaster



**HMP & YOI Doncaster
Marshgate
Doncaster
DN5 8UX
www.hmpdoncaster.com**

For Video Link Bookings please contact the Video Link Clerk on: 01302 763218

**VIDEO LINK SUITE OPENING TIMES
MON-FRI 08:00-12:30 13:15-16:30**



Video Link

About the Video Link

HMP & YOI Doncaster Video Link was established on 1 of October 2002 and provides a professional service to Crown and Magistrates Courts. This is a real time two-way transmission by video of images and sound between two or more locations, offering an effective way of conducting hearings in a manner compatible with the interests of justice.

The Video Link was introduced due to a change in legislation, namely the Crime Disorder Act 1998 section 57. This was after a 2-year trial period at Bristol and Manchester.

All prisoners are eligible to use the Video Link facilities, with priority given to Court hearings.

The Video Link can also be used for any of the following:

- a. Solicitors Conferences
- b. Bail Applications
- c. Sentencing
- d. Pre-case Management Hearings
- e. Parole Hearings
- f. Court of Appeal
- g. Coroners Court
- h. Family Court Hearings
- i. Pre-sentence Reports
- j. Substance Misuse Reports
- k. Adjudication Hearings
- l. Immigration Bail Applications
- m. Inter-prison visits *

** Inter-prison visits are subject to a criteria check*

Daily routine for Prisoners

There are many benefits of the Video Link including:

1. Protection of witnesses and victims in court
2. Improved security
3. Financial savings
4. Care for vulnerable prisoners
5. Reduction of escape risk
6. Facilitating prisoners with disabilities

When a prisoner is attending court via our Video Link facility he still has the option of continuing his daily routine. All that is required is approximately one hour out of the prisoner's time throughout the course of the day, this is the only impact to the prisoner. Using the Video Link will still enable him to participate in his daily regime which could include the following:

1. Family visits
2. Legal visits
3. Physical recreation
4. Meal times
5. Education
6. Association
7. Work
8. Religious studies
9. Probation appointments
10. Healthcare appointments
11. Place and receive canteen orders

It is vital for a prisoner to have a daily routine to help with his rehabilitation. Using the Video Link is a quick and simple way for the prisoner to have their hearing with very little impact to their day.

The time the prisoner will be on the Video Link will be spent by firstly being placed in the holding area near the court room, a conference with his solicitor prior to his court appearance and then finally his court appearance. Once the court appearance has concluded the prisoner will be returned to the wing for him to resume his regime.

If a prisoner is required to be produced at court this could have a major impact on his routine. He would be required to be up at 6am and ready to be taken to Reception for discharge to court. He would need to take his property with him. He would then board the court escort vehicle and be placed into the single cell. Depending on the court area he may be required to stay on the bus for some time whilst other prisoners are taken to other courts, before arriving at his destination.

Once he arrives he will be placed in the court cells until he is required to appear in the court; depending on the stage of proceedings this could be as short as 5 minutes. He would then be placed back in the court cells until transport can be arranged for him to return to prison.

The same procedure could apply on the journey back to prison meaning the prisoner could be returned to prison as late as 8pm. The prisoner will have been out in excess of 12 hours for his court appearance, this would therefore affect all the previously mentioned activities.