



Ministry  
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The Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: PQ 204477

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014

Dear Ben

#### **DEPARTMENTAL MOBILE PHONE, BLACKBERRY AND LAPTOP RETENTION**

I committed to write to you with regard to your written question (204477) to the Secretary of State for Justice, which was originally scheduled for answering on Thursday 17 July (Hansard reference: 17 July 2014 : Column 749W)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mobile telephones, BlackBerrys and laptops were lost by his Department in (a) 2013 and (b) 2014 to date. (204477)

All Ministry of Justice laptops and BlackBerrys are encrypted and protected with a complex password; and all BlackBerrys that are registered as lost or stolen are blocked remotely, making it impossible for them to be used. The Ministry also implements security incident management procedures to ensure that the impacts of incidents are risk managed and investigations are undertaken to seek, and where possible retrieve, lost or stolen assets.

The Ministry adopts government security policy framework requirements to securely protect its assets. Clear processes are in place for notification of any loss, including reporting it to the police. The compliance of staff with policy and guidance is a line management responsibility, and in the event of any breach, disciplinary action may be taken. Specific sanction is applied to the removal of unencrypted laptops or other official IT equipment containing personal or protectively-marked data from a secure location and in the event of this occurring disciplinary action will be taken which may result in dismissal.

Over recent years the Department has increased the number of BlackBerrys issued to staff.

Details of mobile phones, BlackBerrys and laptops lost or stolen from the Ministry of Justice in (a) 2013 and (b) 2014 are supplied in the table below.

<i>IT equipment lost/stolen</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014 (to date)</i>
Mobile telephones	10*	4*
BlackBerrys	67	37
Laptops	47	25

*\*NOMS estate only*

Since 2009/10 the number of Blackberrys lost or stolen has reduced by over 50%. The 2013/14 figure above represents 2.5% of all Blackberry's held by the Department. The number of laptops lost or stolen in 2013 represents less than half a percent of those held by the Department.

I hope you find this information helpful; a copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

*Yours*  
*Shailesh*

**SHAILESH VARA**