



INNOVATION STRATEGY CLOSE-OUT REPORT

PROJECT TITLE	Staff Digitisation Project – Lone Working Safety Device
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BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT & EXPECTED BENEFITS

Staff working alone are vulnerable and there was a requirement to make something available to give them extra reassurance and help while working alone. This device enables staff to automatically notify 3 nominated contacts in an emergency. The device can also send a text message with the coordinates of their current location to be found by other staff or emergency services if required. It can be activated by pressing the button, or it will trigger automatically when it detects a fall. The device is very light, portable and waterproof so ideal for an outdoor working environment. It can be worn in multiple ways so users can wear to a style that suits their preference.



FIGURE 1 - V.ALRT LONE WORKING DEVICE

RESULTS

1,951 Network Technicians work in ESB Networks as well as a further 1,000 staff like supervisors, managers who also travel alone. Of those staff, nearly all of them were provided with a smart device from 2015 for work. The V.Alrt emergency fob was brought into the business and supplied centrally through stores. Staff can avail of a device if they feel they need one. It was made available in Mid-2017 and there were 468 devices issued up to May 2018 at a cost of 50 euro each. It works with iOS and android devices.

Key Features:

- Fall alert
- Location sent to 3 nominated contacts
- 1-year battery life and no charging
- Can be tethered to any smart phone or smart device (iOS or Android)
- Waterproof - Robust
- Relatively cost effective to make available
- Can be worn as a watch, pendant or badge



LEARNINGS

In 2015, the mobile team began trialling the V.Alrt safety device. The device was incorporated into the existing lone working policy to highlight the V.Alrt as an additional control measure. During the early testing, some devices were triggered accidentally by users, so this was incorporated into the user guide to avoid false alarms.

BENEFITS REALISED/VALIDATED

Staff wanted to have something that would give them extra security while out working. It gives extra assurance to the company and the worker in the event of an emergency while alone and enhances the current lone working policy.

NEXT STEPS – BAU, TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

The device stock is now managed by the Technical Tools & Equipment team who supply it via the stores.

FINAL TIMELINES (REASONS FOR ANY DELAYS IF THEY OCCURRED)

No delays

FINAL COSTS

Ongoing – booked out from stores as required by business.