



**ROYAL
AIR FORCE**

We want to keep everybody protected.



**Your mobile devices
Using them safely and securely**



www.getsafeonline.org

The importance of using your mobile devices safely and securely

Day-to-day, what do you rely on your smartphone, tablet or laptop computer for? Actually, what *don't* you rely on it for?

Your laptop is a portable, convenient computer which is potentially more powerful than many desktops. Your phone and tablet are also a camera, address book, satnav, wallet, diary and far more, to say nothing of the convenience of your apps.

This makes your devices liable to loss or damage, but also an attractive target for criminals. The consequences of theft range from inconvenience and possible replacement costs, to the trauma of somebody accessing the private information held on your device ... and accessible *from* it. This also applies to intrusions to your device, whether physical or online.

Coupled with the fact that the popularity of mobile devices has made them the number one target for malware attacks, it's apparent why you need to take great care of them.

We've compiled a list of practical top tips to help you ensure you don't compromise your safety or security via your mobile devices, nor that of your family, colleagues or the RAF.



Top tips for using your mobile devices safely and securely.

- Never leave your devices unattended, whether in an unsecured area at work, in a café, pub, hotel room or vehicle – even if concealed.
- Keep your devices protected when carrying it in public, whether in the UK or abroad.
- Protect your devices with a password/passcode and keep it to yourself: it's the first line of defence against unauthorised intrusions.
- Look around you for 'shoulder surfers' checking out what's on your screen. Fit your laptop with a privacy screen to minimise the chance of your information being eyeballed.



- Download apps only from authorised app stores to ensure you're not using criminal or otherwise rogue apps.
- Download a reputable internet security app (smartphones/tablets) or software (laptops). But remember that no security package is foolproof, and there's no substitute for getting into safe, responsible habits.
- Be wary of unsolicited text messages: they can contain links to fraudulent websites.
- Don't scan spurious QR codes – for example on posters or promotional cards. They could also lead to malicious sites.
- Ensure you mobile devices are stored outside any sensitive areas, to avoid potential use as eavesdropping devices. Strictly observe zoning policies in the building or country you are located in.
- If using your device for anything private when out and about, don't use Wi-Fi hotspots: they may be insecure, or somebody may have set up a spoof hotspot to intercept what you're doing. Instead, use your data or a secure mobile router (dongle). If you use a VPN (virtual private network), bear in mind that the provider could access your communications.
- Disable geolocation on your device and apps (including social media and fitness apps and your camera). Ensure your home or places of work cannot be determined if the device falls into the wrong hands or is hacked.



For comprehensive, practical, expert advice on the safe use of mobile devices, visit www.getsafeonline.org/smartphones-tablets

Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security, for the public and small businesses. It is a not-for-profit, public/private sector partnership backed by a number of government departments, law enforcement agencies and leading organisations in internet security, banking and retail.



For more information and expert, easy-to-follow, impartial advice on safeguarding yourself, your family, finances, devices and workplace, visit www.getsafeonline.org



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