

Scotland Yard deploys mobile fingerprint devices

23 May 2012

(AP) -- Scotland Yard says it's equipping its police officers with handheld fingerprint devices, something the force says will help identify suspects in a matter of seconds.

Britain's largest force says it has distributed 350 of the cell phone-sized devices to officers across various parts of London, part of a nationwide rollout championed by Britain's National Policing Improvement Agency.

The force said Wednesday that the devices capture fingerprints and remotely check them against the police database, flagging wanted criminals in 30 seconds. Photographs of the devices released by police showed that they were manufactured by Pasadena, California-based biometrics company 3M Cogent, Inc.

[Scotland Yard](#) helped pioneer the field of [fingerprint identification](#), setting up its Fingerprint Branch in 1901 and creating a classification system that was adopted by [law enforcement agencies](#) worldwide.

©2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

APA citation: Scotland Yard deploys mobile fingerprint devices (2012, May 23) retrieved 18 October 2019 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-05-scotland-yard-deploys-mobile-fingerprint.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.