



## Internet Investigations planning guide

The following list is not exhaustive but should be considered as the minimum considerations prior to commencing any online investigation

### **Objectives;**

*What is the purpose of your enquiry, what are you trying to achieve? Without setting objectives you are likely to 'drift'. Make sure you fully understand the task.*

### **Information;**

*What information have you got? All too often investigators hit the keyboard straight away without taking the time to fully understand what is already in their possession. Know what you have, it will save time and make you more focused in your approach.*

### **Legislative and procedural considerations;**

*Even if you are not a public authority conducting an Online Investigation will likely result in infringing the privacy of your subject. With the advent of new Data Protection legislation (EU-GDPR) it is essential that you have in place a policy that sets out why you are doing what you do.*

### **Online Security issues**

*What considerations do you have in place for protecting your own digital footprint? How are you going to access social media profiles safely and avoid compromise? Can you identify malicious content and avoid viruses and malware properly?*

### **Record Keeping**

*If you are conducting your investigation professionally then you will have in place a method of recording what you do. Investigations should be approached on the basis that your actions will be scrutinised.*

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