Cyber Byte

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Emergency SOS functionality on your mobile device.

The NPSA (National Protective Security Authority) is the UK Government's National Technical Authority for Physical and Personnel Protective Security.

The NPSA collaborates very closely with Law Enforcement providing security advice, guidance and support throughout the UK, such as the setting up of the Emergency SOS function on your mobile device.

You can set up your mobile device so that when you activate the Emergency SOS functionality, it will call the emergency services, share your location information and message your emergency contacts.

You can programme Emergency SOS to be silent, particularly helpful if you find yourself in compromised circumstances which dictate discretion, or it can be an alarmed sounding alert. Importantly, you can also cancel it if activated in error.

On most devices you additionally have the option of including medical ID.

This will help first responders access your critical medical information from the Lock screen, without needing your passcode. They can see information you have populated like allergies and medical conditions, as well as emergency contacts who you wish to be contacted in case of an emergency.

Setting up Emergency SOS features will vary depending on the type of mobile device you have and the operating system it runs on.

It is easy to set up Emergency SOS, and information is available online to guide you through the process. Android SOS set up. Apple SOS set up.

Emergency SOS is also available on most smart watches with a mobile connection and is also available via the eCall feature available in vehicles manufactured since 2018.

If you have been a victim of crime, and it is not an ongoing emergency, you can report this to Police Scotland on 101.