

Phone tapping

Follow our 8 tips to protect your phone

We can help with

- Corporate reputation protection
- Commercial dispute resolution
- Personal reputation and privacy protection
- Unwanted media attention
- Family and matrimonial issues

How to contact us

General enquiries
020 7034 9000

24 hour emergency number
07711 715345

Visit our website
www.schillings.co.uk

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You may have read recent media reports relating to the alleged interception of voicemail messages and texts. How can you make your messages and calls more secure?

- 1 Change the factory settings on your voicemail** to prevent illegal accessing. One of the ways people can get access to the voicemail messages on your mobile phone is by using the factory default setting for your pin code. All mobile phones start with factory (or 'standard') settings. To change the standard pin code for your own unique code, simply ring your voicemail and select the option to change your security pin number on the main menu. To be really safe switch off your voicemail.
- 2 Turn off your Bluetooth connection.** If you don't, information could be "bluesnarfed" – accessed by someone in the vicinity via your open Bluetooth connection.
- 3 Limit your "roaming" function.** Is your phone set up to receive/make calls overseas? If it is then limit this as much as possible. Having roaming on can make it harder for some cellular carriers to use fraud-detection programmes and shut down a stolen/hacked phone.
- 4 Don't send sensitive messages** such as texts or pictures to anyone else's phone. You might be smart enough to secure your phone, but is the person you've just sent that personal text as clued up as you?
- 5 Delete your messages.** Sending personal messages will be unavoidable sometimes of course. Once read or listened to we suggest that anything you wouldn't want the media or public to see or hear is deleted straightaway.
- 6 Contact your service provider.** They can tell you if someone (usually pretending to be you) has asked for an itemised bill or tried to re-direct your bills. Checking your itemised bill could also show if someone has tried to clone your phone.
- 7 Keep your phone with you.** It might sound obvious, but the simplest way to read your texts, listen to your messages or see your pictures is via your phone itself. Don't lend your phone to anyone.
- 8 Register your phone** in the name of your partner or in the name of your business to avoid drawing attention to your records.

It is not just private voicemail messages and texts that can be accessed of course. Other communications such as emails and even old fashioned letters can be intercepted.

It has also been known for people's rubbish to be stolen and long distance microphones to be used by those intent on gathering private information. You can, however, take practical steps to protect yourself against all that intrusion into your privacy. Please call us if you would like to discuss this further.