

Our delivery partners for online assessments, Pearson have shared that they will be introducing additional security scanning (aka security wand) to candidate check-in in April. This will start rolling out to all Pearson Professional Centres (PPCs) on April 20. They estimate having all Americas sites fully launched by the end of May, and the remaining PPC network completed by the end of Q2. CICM believe therefore that this will be in place for UK test centres by the end of June 2026.

Alongside getting prepared for the wider roll out, an additional pilot is being planned in the UK next month in a small number of PPCs.

Pearson actions:

- Comprehensive and thorough training for Test Centre Administrators
- Revised documentation, including candidate confirmation emails and updated test centre rules and regulations
- Strengthened candidate check-in policies to maintain exam integrity
- New informational and policy signage at test centres

Post-launch, all candidates at PPCs must be scanned during check-in. Those with medical or religious reasons may seek a waiver from CICM Awarding Body. CICM will then need to inform Pearson, so the test centre personnel are notified to allow the candidate to test without scanning.

An initial six-month transition period will allow CICM the opportunity to update our handbook and policies. During this time, if candidates arrive at the test centre unaware of this new policy and refuse to be scanned for medical or religious reasons, the Test Administrator will create a case documenting this and will allow the candidate to test. After the six-month transition timeline (approximately October 2026), Pearson will fully enforce the waiver policy.

Unauthorized electronic devices policy

Once the scanning process is implemented, Pearson will enforce a zero-tolerance policy regarding the possession and/or use of unauthorized electronic devices in the testing area. This policy mandates that unless pre-approved, all electronic devices are strictly forbidden inside the testing area. Candidates will be instructed to power off and store all electronic devices, such as mobile phones, smart watches, and camera glasses before heading to the proctor station. Candidates who fail to do so will not be permitted to test and may forfeit any exam fees paid.