



Department of Health & Social Care

Alert Reference: CEM/CMO/2018/004

Date of issue: 2 August 2018

Chief Medical Officer Alert

Actions

1. If a package from the 'The Cyrus Project' arrives at your organisation follow the advice below.

**Action required by:
all providers of
NHS funded care.**

Dear Colleague,

An organisation identifying itself as 'The Cyrus Project' has sent unsolicited packages, with accompanying literature requesting testing on the enclosed sample, to a number of health related organisations over the last 24 hours.

Public Health England has confirmed initial testing on packages received to date shows it is highly unlikely the substance contained therein is hazardous. However as a precautionary measure, you are advised to take the following actions:

- Handle the package with care, wearing nitrile gloves and quarantine it in a secure leak-proof container.
- Wash your hands, or any part of your body that comes into contact with the package, with water.
- Alert your local NHS England EPRR contact that you have received a package.
- Notify Public Health England via phe.nicc20@phe.gov.uk (providing a named contact on site for PHE to liaise with).
- Contact your local police force via 101 and inform them you are in receipt of a package.
- Media enquiries relating to this should be directed to your local police force.

Counter Terrorism Policing are managing the response and forensic testing is currently underway on the substances received. Further advice will be issued once the testing results are confirmed.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Dame Sally Davies
Chief Medical Officer,
England