



DEALING WITH SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES

Lothian and Borders Police and Department of Public Health action in response to 'low risk' incidents within the Lothian and Borders area will be as follows:

- 1) Police attend, assess the risk, and collect package.
- 2) The owner/occupier of the premises/place from where the package is collected is told to seal off the room, turn off air conditioning and ventilation systems until the substance is analysed and the result known.
- 3) The Operations Room at Police HQ in Edinburgh will inform the relevant Department of Public Health and pass the name of the firm/location of the premises, and the telephone number of a named person to speak to at that location.
- 4) The Department of Public Health will be expected to contact the named person to provide health advice/ information, and also to fax an information sheet to the firm/premises concerned so that it can be copied as required for the information of staff involved in the incident.
- 5) Police will note the names and addresses of people at scene, who have been involved with the package, and fax to the Department of Public Health.
- 6) If the company/ occupier of the premises does not want to close off the place from where the package was found/retrieved they will told by the Police it is the company's/ occupier's decision, and they carry that responsibility.
- 7) Police take package for analysis, and it is sent to the Public Analyst.
- 8) The Public Analyst will provide:
 - a] Neg/pos result for anthrax
 - b] Neg/pos result for other dangers
 - c] Neg/pos result for anything else
- 9) Public Analyst will not communicate the result of any analysis to anyone other than certain named individuals within Lothian & Borders Police.
- 10) When the result of the analysis is known the Police will inform the owner/ occupier. The will not inform the Department of Public Health unless the result shows a positive result.

Harry Scott,
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