



## Information on the Governments Emergency Test of Push Notifications

On **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 3pm**, the government will be testing a new emergency alerts system in the UK.

The alert will tell you that it is a test. You do not have to do anything or need to worry about any danger in your area when the test takes place. You can swipe the message away or click ok to dismiss it.

This day and time has been chosen to reduce disruption to people's lives.

### What is the alert for?

You may get alerts about emergency situations in the area you are in, such as:

- Severe Flooding
- Fire
- Extreme Weather
- Terror incidents
- Civil defence emergencies

It will only to be used in events where there is immediate risk to life.

Where it is used in a real life situation, it will usually be targeted to specific areas where the danger is imminent.

### Who uses the alert?

Emergency alerts will only be sent by

- Emergency services
- Government departments, agencies and public bodies that deal with emergencies

### What happens when you get an emergency alert and what devices get the alert?

All 4G and 5G Android and Apple devices are already set up to receive emergency alerts.

The notification will go to all receiving devices in the area that there is an emergency situation. It is **not** based on where you live, but the location of the device at the time of the emergency situation.

Your mobile phone or tablet will do one or more of the following:



- Make a loud siren-like sound, **even if your device is on silent**
- Vibrate
- Read out the alert
- Alerts will be sent in English, however in Wales they may also be sent in Welsh.

**When you get an alert (that is not the test), stop what you are doing and follow instructions in the alert.**

### **What if I am driving or riding when I get an alert?**

You should not read or otherwise respond to an emergency alert whilst driving or riding a motorcycle

If you are driving or riding, you should continue your journey and not respond to the noise or attempt to pick up the device and deal with the message

Find somewhere safe and legal to stop before reading the message. If there is nowhere safe or legal to stop close by, and nobody else is in the vehicle to read the alert, tune into live radio and wait for bulletins until you can find somewhere safe and legal to stop.

### **If you are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or partially sighted?**

If you have a vision impairment, the audio attention signal will let you know there is an emergency alert.

If you have a hearing impairment, the vibration attention signal will let you know there is an emergency alert.

### **What if I don't want to receive alerts?**

There are various reasons as to why someone may not wish to receive emergency alerts,

A few examples:

- They have a concealed device, which could be for safety purposes
- They may not have capacity to understand the alert
- They may experience a high level of distress when receiving the alarm
- They may feel getting an alert whilst driving or riding is too distracting

Here is a YouTube video to show you how you can manage and turn off emergency alerts. Whilst it was created by the domestic abuse charity "Refuge" and is aimed at people experiencing domestic abuse who may have a concealed device for their safety, it can be used by anyone to manage their alerts.

[Managing Emergency Alerts on your phone to stay safe if you're experiencing domestic abuse - YouTube](#)



Android users can search 'emergency alert' in their phone's setting section, then use the toggles to turn off the alerts they do not want.

Apple users can go to the notifications section in settings and scroll right to the end of the page where they will find an emergency alerts section where they can be disabled

### **If your device cannot receive emergency alerts.**

If you do not have a compatible device or have turned off emergency alerts, you will still be informed about an emergency. The emergency services have other ways to warn you when there is a threat to life.

NOTE: Emergency alerts on your device will not replace local news, radio, television or social media alerts.

### **Is the Government collecting and storing my personal information?**

No

The Government does not need to know your phone number or location to send the alert.

The alerts are secure, free to receive and one-way. They do not reveal a person's location to the government or collect any of your personal data.

The alert works because a notification is sent to local mobile phone masts in the area and they then broadcast the alert to all mobile phones that are able to receive the alerts.

### **What will happen after the test and why are the alerts important?**

You will not be bombarded with alerts from the government or emergency services.

The hope is that, apart from the test, most people will not receive an emergency alert again.

However, the point of the alerts are to protect life in an emergency situation, it may not be used for months, or even years and it may never happen in an area you are in, but if it does, please take it seriously.

If you have any questions, please email [data.protection@macintyrecharity.org](mailto:data.protection@macintyrecharity.org)

Or you can look online for more information:

[About Emergency Alerts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Managing Emergency Alerts on your phone to stay safe if you're experiencing domestic abuse - YouTube](#)

[UK Emergency Alerts](#)