

Annex 2 - Information to be released:

1. Covering Letter

Department of Health

From the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Dame Sally C Davies FRS FMedSci

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22 January 2016

From the Chief Medical Officer to Participants in Exercise ALICE

Following the recent outbreak of Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus in South Korea I have commissioned the EPRR team in DH to organise a one day table top exercise to explore how the health system would respond to an outbreak and a number of infected patients requiring treatment in this country. The exercise will be held on Monday 15th February at the One Great George Street Conference Centre, Westminster SW1P 3AA, and I am formally writing to invite you to attend this.

Colleagues from DH, NHS England and PHE will participate in the exercise. We will use this to consider the public health response to an outbreak and then move on to discuss how the health sector would respond. The day will be structured so that there are two break-out sessions for colleagues to consider the scenario and their respective roles and response, each followed by a plenary session which I will chair. Timing of the event will be from 09.30 to 16.00hrs. Further briefing will be provided in advance of the exercise to enable colleagues to prepare in advance, but if you do wish to discuss this further at this stage then please do speak to relevant colleagues who are on the planning team. These are (REDACTED - Section 40) and (REDACTED - Section 40) (DH), (REDACTED - Section 40) and (REDACTED - Section 40) (PHE) and (REDACTED - Section 40) (NHS England). A report will be prepared following the exercise to identify any lessons that we can learn from this to improve our preparedness for such an incident.

I would be grateful if you can confirm your attendance to (REDACTED - Section 40) in the DH EPRR team ((REDACTED - Section 40)@dh.gsi.gov.uk). I look forward to seeing you at the exercise.
Best wishes

PROFESSOR DAME SALLY C DAVIES CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER