Emergency alert system and test on 23 April

The **Cabinet Office has launched a new system that will give the Government and emergency services the capability to send an alert directly to mobile phones** when there is a risk to life.

A UK-wide alerts test will take place at 15.00 on Sunday 23 April which will see people receive a test message on their mobile phones.

The **Emergency Alerts system** will allow the government to get urgent messages quickly to nearly 90 per cent of mobile phones in a defined area.

The system is now ready to be tested across the country following successful tests in East Suffolk and Reading.

The alerts will only ever come from the Government or emergency services, and they will issue a warning, the details of the area impacted, and instructions about how best to respond.