

The HOT Principle

Understand the difference between an abandoned/left item and a Suspicious Packages

Recognition:

Think **H O T**!

H – Has the item been **H**idden?

Has it deliberately been concealed?

O – Is it **O**bviously suspicious?

Does it seem odd or out of place, is there wires, liquids or batteries sticking out of it?

T – Is it **T**ypical for the location?

Is the item what you would expect to see at your place of work?

To double check your concerns:-

- 📱 Ask people in the immediate area to identify their own belongings.
- 📱 Is the bag / item theirs?
- 📱 Does it belong to someone they know?
- 📱 Did they see who left it?
- 📱 Was there anything suspicious about the way it was left?

Once the item has been deemed suspicious **Do Not Touch It** and follow the actions below:-

Action at the scene of a suspect device

CONFIRM - that the item is suspicious

CLEAR - the area working outwards from the device

CORDON - off the required distances

CONTROL - the incident

CHECK - all the above has been completed

Information that will be required

WHAT - is it?

WHERE - is it?

WHY - is it there, why is it suspicious?

WHEN - was it found, placed or reported?

WHO - found it, who is the potential target or perpetrator?

Transmission distances for a suspect device

When undertaking the actions above remember not to use radios or phones within 15m of the suspect item and try to keep out of line of sight but behind something substantial like a building but away from glazing.

15 metres - mobile phones and hand-held radios

50 metres - vehicle mounted radio device

Cordon distances (National Minimum Distances)

100 metres - small items i.e. briefcase size

200 metres - larger items up to motor cars

400 metres - vans and lorries