

May 2018

Consumer Alerts

Beware tarmac gangs offering to fill pot holes

Gangs have been cold calling residents in North Yorkshire falsely claiming to be from the County Council, working locally, and having material left over to fill pot holes in private drives and roads. The gangs are not working for the Council. Once a contract is agreed and work has begun, the price has begun to escalate. This scam could be used in Lancashire.

Bogus Roofers

Residents in the East of the county have reported being repeatedly targeted by different roofers, within a few months of each other, each cold calling saying the previous guttering or roof slate work that had been carried out was not up to scratch and that they could rectify it.

Lancaster and Morecambe residents have also reported property repair cold callers, using pushy tactics to get work, including beginning the work before a contract has been agreed.

Beware Door to Door Tree Surgeon Services

Residents of Clitheroe have reported cold callers offering tree surgeon services, prices escalating, cash payments demanded and cuttings not taken away.

Remember that if you have agreed to a contract in your own home and have second thoughts, you have 14 days to cancel.

Trading Standards advice is to always say no to cold callers. The Safetrader scheme can help you find a trader in your area, contact 0303 333 1111 or go to www.safetrader.org.uk

Scam DVLA Text

If you receive the following text "FINAL REQUEST: DVLA Swansea have been trying to contact you, Click below for more information" it is a scam - do not reply.

Bailiff telephone scam

Residents in Rossendale have received telephone calls from someone posing as a contracted Bailiff alleging to work for the Council pursuing debts.

The scammer states the resident had been running a business from home and had failed to declare this. The arrears had to be paid immediately over the phone. Any delay would incur a further charge of £700 and if the caller hung up the Bailiffs would visit that day. The caller does not work for the Council and is using scare tactics to panic the householder into paying.

Contact the Trading Standards Service via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 04 05 06