

January 2019

Consumer Alerts

Scammers claiming unpaid debt for roofing work

A householder in the Leyland area who was scammed 2 years ago into handing over a large amount of money for minimal, shoddy roofing work received a phone recently asking for £4500 that was allegedly still owed. The money was supposedly to pay the builders merchants who had not received payment at the time. The elderly resident understood he was speaking to a solicitor, from UK National Trading Standards, that the case was due in court but if he transferred the money into an account that day, it could all be kept quiet.

This is a scam, there is no such organisation as UK National Trading Standards. The scammer persistently rang over 2 or 3 days trying to make the householder panic into paying the money.

Rogue Gardeners

A Fylde resident recently gave her landline telephone number to rogue gardeners and then began to receive numerous unusual scam calls including one offering her food and cooking oil delivered to her home, one offering £800 for free if she gave her bank details, one for guttering services and one for fitting a new bathroom. Be careful and be aware who you share your telephone details with.

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

Email scams

Beware receiving an email alleging you are not up to date with your vehicle tax and this is a last chance warning to avoid unpleasant consequences. The recipient was invited to click on a link to pay. The DVLA would never contact you in this way, it is a scam.

Think twice about taking out appliance insurance

Be aware you may be receive telesales calls selling appliance insurance. In one case, a man set up a monthly direct debit to insure his very old and almost-obsolete television. While appliance cover is perfectly legal, residents need to consider whether the amount they are paying will total to more than the value of the appliance, and whether it is worth covering basic goods that are often classed as beyond economic repair.

To reduce the number of telesales calls you receive, sign up to the Telephone Preference Service – contact them on 0345 070 0707. Service providers also offer services that will reduce unwanted telesales and scam calls. You can also

consider installing a call blocking device.

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