

July 2019

Consumer Alerts

Gardeners Cold Calling

Reports have been received of a van going door to door in the Lytham St Annes area offering gardening work or asking if any odd jobs need doing. Unfortunately a resident in Lytham took them up on their offer, after minimal work was completed the consumer was driven to the bank (in the van) and asked to pay over a very large sum of money.

Other reports in the same area indicate gardeners were contacted via a flyer, again minimal work done for a large amount of cash. Be wary of using flyers.

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

Bogus Firefighter

A man in a navy blue shirt with a fire service emblem embroidered on it has been knocking on the doors of elderly people in Clitheroe. It is thought that he is trying to gain access to properties by posing as a firefighter. The fire service have confirmed they have no representatives in the area, and householders are being warned not to allow the man entry into their homes. Anyone who thinks they have spotted the man should call 101.

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

Bogus Gas man

A man falsely claiming to be a gas meter reader gained access to a retired lady's house and attempted to sexually assault her. The incident happened in the Preston area.

Gas companies advise that their readers always carry ID with their name and telephone number on and will never pressurise people into letting them in. Be aware that callers may have fake IDs, always check their identity independently and use the number on your bill. Your provider should also operate a scheme providing meter readers with a password, which is pre-agreed with the homeowner and used whenever they call at your house.

Always use a door chain/ door bar when you get an unexpected caller and do not let the caller in if you have any doubts. If they are genuine they will understand. Report any incidents to the Police.

Free Solar Health Checks

Wyre residents have been receiving an official looking letter offering free health checks for their solar installations, warning that they should contact the business to ensure their expired, or due to expire, warranty is validated. Please be aware this is a marketing communication, a commercial business offering you a service for which you will have to pay and is not linked to your installer/ manufacturer.