

June 2018

Consumer Alerts

Bogus gardeners cold calling

Cold callers offering to cut hedges and shrubs back have been reported in the Preston and Poulton area.

Often the bogus callers have asked for money up front or very soon into the job, done very little work and then left with the money. The branches or cuttings have been left in the garden or fly tipped nearby.

There is also concern that if the trader follows the householder into their house they may commit burglary should an opportunity arise.

Beware Fish Sellers

Residents of Hoghton have reported fish sellers knocking on doors.

Unless the seller is a local regular fishmonger and rounds man please be wary. Often the door step callers will trick you into buying more fish than you initially wanted. There are also concerns as to how the fish is stored, that the species is unknown and not what the householder asked for. Often the purchaser does not know the name or address of the trader.

Remember, if the contract is over £42 and you have second thoughts, you have 14 days to cancel.

Beware HMRC Scam phone call

A resident in Fleetwood has received a threatening call from someone pretending

to be from HMRC. The caller said they were glad they had got to speak to her as she was in debt to them and facing prison or the debt collectors. The caller asked for personal details, when this was refused was passed to a 'Manager'.

This is a scam – the HMRC would never approach you in this way.

Wangiri Mobile Phone Scam

If you receive a call that only rings once or twice then hangs up but indicates to be from an obscure or exotic location such as Sierra Leone or Papua New Guinea, do not ring back. The scam uses automated dialing and relies on the natural curiosity of their targets.

If you return the call you will be connected to a premium rate line, the fee to connect will be high and someone will try to keep you connected. You will be unaware of the high charges until you receive your bill. The scam originates in Japan

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

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