

## Warnings

Rogue Traders are currently cold calling in **Weyhill, Andover and surrounding areas of Hampshire** and the surrounding areas of Hampshire offering to carry out paving and tarmac work. It is alleged that these traders are not providing cancellation rights.

Trading Standards would advise consumers not to agree to work that is instigated as a result on a cold call or via a leaflet drop. Consumers should obtain at least 3 written quotes from reputable businesses or traders who belong to a recognised trade association, such as the Hampshire County Council Buy With Confidence Scheme. Details of this scheme can be obtained by telephoning 01962 833620, via email at or via the website [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk) [buy.with.confidence@hants.gov.uk](mailto:buy.with.confidence@hants.gov.uk)

Traders who agree work at the home of an individual or at a place other than their usual business premises are required by law to provide consumers with a Notice of Right to Cancel, which gives consumers a 7 day cooling off period. Work should not commence until this period has ended, unless written agreement is first obtained from that consumer beforehand.

Rogue Traders are currently telephone cold calling vulnerable residents in the County. The caller is unknown but believed to be male and very threatening. He has told residents that they had subscribed to a telephone monitoring service and had run up bills of between £3,500 - £6,000 and defaulted on the payment. They are then asked for immediate payment over the phone by card. When they question this they have been told that unless they pay up they will be arrested within hours by the Metropolitan Police and transported to the Queens Court in London.

Anyone receiving these calls should hang up and are advised to register with anonymous call barring from their telephone provider or to consider changing their telephone number and keeping their number ex directory.

If anyone has any information about traders who are cold calling or requires any advice on doorstep crime they can contact Hampshire County Council's

**Quick Response Team on 01962 833666**

(Monday – Friday 0900hrs to 1700hrs)

where specially trained officers are on hand to provide assistance.

If urgent assistance is required outside of these hours please contact Hampshire Police on 0845 045 4545.

### **Hampshire County Council Trading Standards Service**

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E-mail: [doorstep.crime@hants.gov.uk](mailto:doorstep.crime@hants.gov.uk)