

March 2016

Consumer Alerts

Doorstep Incidents

Doorstep callers selling pots, pans and knives have been reported in the Preston area. Some of the products claim to be branded goods but are suspected to be counterfeit. No cancellation rights are required to be given for goods bought on the doorstep under the value of £42.

Accrington, Preston and Lytham have reported cold callers offering free boiler schemes. In all cases the salesmen have required personal details, including your financial situation.

If you think you may qualify for a free boiler, initially make contact with your local District council, they may know of reputable schemes in your area.

Be cautious who you give personal details to, including your bank details and methods of identification.

Pyramid Selling

Trading Standards are receiving reports regarding a possible pyramid selling scheme. Such schemes usually start with someone trying to recruit you to a business opportunity.

A pyramid scheme is an unsustainable business model that requires participants to join in and invest. Sometimes there is a product to sell (typically cosmetics, health style foods) but the classic pyramid just requires an investment from each individual. They are sometimes called

gifting schemes or multilevel marketing schemes.

Friends or friends of friends may approach you to join as the more people who join the more money can be made. Only those at the very top will profit. You will lose your investment and if you in turn enrol family and friends they can lose out too.

Telephone Scams

Residents have been receiving telephone calls claiming to be ringing from their local Council, working in collaboration with the NHS asking about a recent accident. No such collaboration has been set up with your local Council – be suspicious if you receive such a call.

Residents of Lancashire have also been receiving a call stating you may be awarded a Good Citizen Grant to the value of £3000 to £5000. The telephone number seemed to be London based. This is a scam and will be an attempt to get bank details from you or an attempt to obtain an advanced fee.

For regular updates on the latest scams and doorstep incidents why not visit our facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/StanleyDards/>

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