

# ROADSIDE TRADERS

Staffordshire Trading Standards Officers are warning consumers about the dangers of buying goods from roadside traders after a consumer was conned in to buying an empty box.

The consumer reported that they were told they purchased a brand new flat screen TV for £120 cash from a person operating from the back of a car in a car park. They said that the TVs were so cheap because they were stock from a shop that was closing down, but when the resident got home he found that the boxes were empty!

If you buy high street brand goods from roadside traders it is likely that you will not see them again to complain if necessary. In many situations the goods are stolen or counterfeit and may be poor quality, faulty or contain hazardous ingredients.

Don't be fooled into thinking you are getting a good deal, high street stores sell goods at competitive prices for your benefit. By buying from reputable stores you are guaranteed a fair price and the right to take goods back for refunds or repair.

If you suspect a person is selling 'dodgy' goods you should report the incident immediately to Staffordshire Trading Standards on our new hotline:

**TRADING STANDARDS CONFIDENTIAL 01785 330 356**

Alternatively, if you require consumer advice please call Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

All our alerts are available in a range of formats and languages, including large print. Please contact Cath Wohlers if this would be helpful to you, or to someone you know.

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