

# Bogus Caller Warning

Staffordshire Trading Standards are warning local residents to be on their guard against bogus callers, distraction burglars and cold callers.

Distraction burglary and bogus caller crime is where criminals call at homes posing as officials or asking for your help with something. They make up a story to try and gain access into your home. They generally work in groups of two or more, so if they are successful in gaining access, one can keep you talking whilst the other sneaks in to search for money and valuables.

With the summer months upon us the reports of the number of door step cold callers has increased. Trading Standards advice is to never deal over the door with cold callers. When you need work carrying out always get three quotes and ask family, friends or neighbours for recommendations. You can also contact Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent's Trader Register on 01785 330 888 or visit their website at [www.traderregister.org.uk](http://www.traderregister.org.uk)

There are a number of things you can do to protect yourself and your home:

- Check the identity of anyone calling at your door, before deciding whether to let them in.
- Phone the company they are claiming to be calling on behalf of, using the number in the telephone book, not one the caller provides you with.
- Don't keep large amounts of cash at home. It really is much safer in the bank.
- Keep doors locked – even when you are at home.
- If you have a door chain, use this every time you answer the door.
- Set up passwords with your utility companies so that if they call at your home, they have to tell you the password being allowed in.
- If in doubt, keep them out. You don't have to let anyone into your home if you don't feel comfortable.
- If you feel threatened by someone calling at your door, or suspect a bogus caller may have visited you, dial 999 and report the incident to the Police.

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

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