



BEAT DOORSTEP CRIME



Think



Secure

Jul 26, 2016 08:32 BST

Scams Awareness Month - doorstep scams

As Scams Awareness Month comes to a close, Moray Council's trading standards service would like to focus on doorstep scams.

Trading standards regularly receives complaints about itinerant traders who travel around Moray offering to do work on gardens, roofs and driveways, or selling household goods and machinery door to door.

Consumers may feel pressurised to agree to work being done, and end up paying thousands of pounds for poor quality and unnecessary work. Such

traders often target vulnerable consumers, telling them there is a problem such as a leaking roof. Quotes for relatively small amounts can increase tenfold, as fraudsters mislead householders that their property requires expensive repairs.

Advice from trading standards is never to contract on the doorstep. If you believe you need work done, get at least three quotes from reputable local traders and get personal recommendations from people you can trust. What may seem like a bargain at the time may turn into a very costly mistake, as the trader has long since vanished by the time any problems with the work come to light.

What you can do to help others:

- Are you aware of someone who is withdrawing unusually large amounts of cash from the bank? They may be doing this to pay a scammer.
- Keep an eye out for vulnerable friends and relatives. If you see workmen at their house, take the time to find out what work is being done and how much it costs.

If you or someone you care about has been the victim of any scam, please contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06 for further advice and assistance.

Moray Council area stretches from Tomintoul in the south to the shores of the Moray Firth, from Keith in the east to Forres in the west. The council and its 4,500 employees respond to the needs of 95,510 residents in this beautiful part of Scotland, which nestles between Aberdeenshire and the Highlands.

Famous for its colony of dolphins, fabulous beaches and more malt whisky distilleries than any where else in Scotland, Moray is a thriving area and a great place to live.

Headquartered in Elgin, the administrative capital of Moray.

Contacts



Sharon Dunbar

Press Contact

Media and Communications Officer

sharon.dunbar@moray.gov.uk

01343 563046

07967 748826



Peter Jones

Press Contact

Communications manager

Press, public communications, social media, events, FOI, campaigns, crisis comms.

peter.jones@moray.gov.uk

01343 563601

07974 191318