

CORONA VIRUS SCAM ALERT

WEST YORKSHIRE TRADING STANDARDS NEWSLETTER

West Yorkshire Trading Standards has seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 related scams.

What is happening at the moment in West Yorkshire?

- 01 Reports of fraudsters targeting young mums on Facebook, cloning their account and messaging their contacts asking for financial support during the pandemic.
- 02 Reports of scam calls made by fraudsters purporting to be from Citizens Advice, stating there is a government initiative to enable people to write off 70% of their debt.
- 03 Reports of itinerant traders targeting elderly and vulnerable residents operating in Dewsbury/Batley area and Pontefract area. Individuals offering driveway cleaning services and property maintenance.

Top Tip

Bogus workmen may prey on the vulnerable and try to obtain cash through deception, for work that is not always necessary. Be aware of pressure selling tactics such as reducing the price to make you think you are getting a "good deal" or special discounts for OAP's.

Scams Trending Regionally & Nationally

- New phishing email purporting to be from Amazon. The email is asking customers if they would like to apply for the Amazon grant relief fund to receive a grant of up to £1000.
- Criminals are taking advantage of the increase in charity donations made during the COVID-19 outbreak, exploiting people's generosity for personal gain.
- Bereavement scams increase as fraudsters purport to be debt collectors recovering debts incurred by the deceased, pressurising relatives to pay the remaining debt. Inheritance Scams are also on the increase.

DOORSTEP CRIMINALS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PANDEMIC

Top tips

YOUR DOORSTEP YOUR DECISION

If you feel pressured,
ask the person to leave.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

ARE BEST

Support from
trusted friends, family or
neighbours is ideal. Be vigilant
for strangers offering services at the
door that may want to take
advantage.

NO SNAP DECISIONS

Take time to talk to someone
you trust before you make any
decisions.

DO THE CHECKS

You can check ID badges and
contact associations to check
membership registrations yourself.
Call the telephone number of the
organisation, obtain this number
yourself, not from the person at the
door.

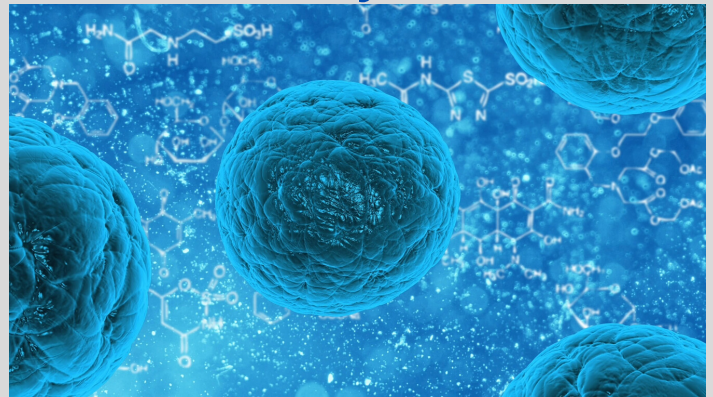


@wytradstandards

Regular updates can also be found on:

 @SAFERProject

*Please only seek medical
advice from your doctor



We are seeing a decline in reports of
doorstep incidents relating to Covid-19
in West Yorkshire. We do ask that you
remain vigilant during this pandemic
and look out for others. If you are
approached on your doorstep by
fraudsters, please report this.

Report to us:

New mailbox to deal
with reports of Covid-19 Scams in
West Yorkshire:

Covid19.Scams@wyjs.org.uk

Forward scam emails to
report@phishing.gov.uk

Report complaints to
Citizens Advice

Consumer Helpline:

0808 223 1133

Report scams to

Action Fraud:

0300 123 2040