

**February 2019**

## **Consumer Alerts**

### **Scammers claiming unpaid debt for roofing work**

A tarmac company using a white tipper truck has recently targeted vulnerable residents in the Chorley area claiming to be a Lancashire County Council contractor and stating that they were about to do a tarmac job on the next road, filling pot holes, but that it had been cancelled due to the weather. The residents lived on an unadopted road and they agreed to the unwanted tarmac being tipped onto their road but were then landed with an undiscussed £5000 invoice, payable that day.

A similar story has recently been received about tarmacers approaching schools claiming to be working for the council and implying the work would be free when it was not.

### **Beware flyers for property repairs**

Be cautious about responding to flyers, use local, known traders, get a range of quotes. A Lancashire resident recently contacted a trader via a flyer, was visited, and on advice from the trader as to what needed doing, agreed a price of £1500 for what turned out to be a very minor repair. The trader refused a cheque, insisted on cash, and became aggressive, threatening to pour tar over the driveway.

**Trading Standards advice is to always say no to cold callers. The Safetrader scheme can help you find a trader in**

**your area, contact 0303 333 1111 or go to [www.safetrader.org.uk](http://www.safetrader.org.uk)**

### **Cold callers offering to buy antiques, watches, military items etc**

Reports have been received that householders in the Ribble Valley area are receiving leaflets through their doors asking if they are interested in selling possibly valuable items. The leaflet states the caller will return the next day.

Trading Standards advice is to say no to cold callers. Be cautious as to who you let into your house. Past reports of similar sellers have raised issues of pushy selling and low valuations. If you are interested in selling items of value, always shop around, speak to local jewellers and antique dealers.

### **HMRC scam phone call**

Householders are reporting receiving telephone calls from a 0161 claiming to be from Working Pensions. The recipients are asked to press 1, when they do this the message asks for all of the consumer's details, National Insurance number, full name and date of birth. The 0161 number has previously been associated with HMRC scams. Residents are warned that HMRC do not make cold calls requesting personal details and these calls are scams.

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