



**Lancashire
Constabulary**

police and communities together



Blackpool and Fylde Watch Liaison Officer

The vacancy for watch liaison officer has now been filled. Samantha (Sam) Blincow started at Blackpool Police Station on the 8th November she has been working for the Constabulary for nearly 8 years if you need her support for anything please contact her via email on sam.blincow@lancashire.pnn.police.uk or via phone on 01253 604134.

SPAM BUSTING TIPS

It's an invasion of your home and private time. Spam calls and texts top many of people's lists of pet hates. There is no perfect way to stop them, but things are improving with the launch of a new text service for mobiles.

So here's a SPAM BUSTER briefing on some latest techniques.

HOW TO STOP SPAM CALLS.

Landline: Register your number on line with the Telephone Preference Services (www.tpsonline.org.uk) or call 03450700707. It may constitute a criminal offence for firms to make unsolicited calls to you. It takes around 28 days to start working. If you get a call after that, tell them you're on the TPS and most legit companies cease calling.

Mobile: While 85% of people have registered their landlines, only 3% have registered their mobiles. Now a new service allows you to register it by free text. Just message to 85095 with "TPS" and your email address (needed to verify your identity). However the "TPS" is only a register for reputable EU companies. Firms from outside the EU, and rogue firms from here may still contact you. And if your number is targeted, the TPS may feel totally ineffective, so see registering as a way to reduce but not stop calls.

STOP SPAM TEXTS.

If a legit company texts you, they offer to let you text STOP so you won't get any further texts. However, if it's a spam text don't reply, **don't text** STOP as it can just indicate to them that your number is real and may target you more. Instead, forward the message for free to 7726 (spells spam) to your provider – if enough people do it the number is investigated and blocked. You should also always block the number on your mobile too. If you're still receiving calls / texts after you've done the above, you can complain to the Information

Commissioner's Office (ICO) on 0303 1231113. Give it as much info about the call/text as you can, so it might be able to do something to stop them.

STOP DOOR KNOCKERS

Put a "No Cold – Callers" sign up. There's a free one you can download, print and stick it on your door at www.mse.me/nocoldcallers. If they still knock (political parties and charities especially tend to ignore these), just open the door, point at the sign, and politely close the door. If they persist, in some cases it's a criminal offence. Make a formal complaint to the company they're from and to the Trading Standards via www.citizensadvice.org.uk

HOW TO STOP JUNK SNAIL MAIL

Addressed mail: To stop unwanted snail mail coming through the letterbox, join the <http://www.mpsonline.org.uk> and after, about four months, the bulk letters should have stopped. Though, unlike the others, it's a voluntary scheme by the trading association, so those still sending aren't breaking the law.

UNADDRESSED LETTERS, FLYERS AND OTHER JUNK.

The Royal Mail has the online door – to – door opt – out system, which means they'll stop delivering to you. You'll need to print an online form and post it to "Freepost Royal Mail Customer Services" (search for "door to door on www.royalmail.com) or phone 03457740740. It'll take about six week for the mail to stop and lasts for around two years. You'll need to opt-out again after that time.

PPI: People ask if the text they received from a PPI company saying they're owed £1,000s is legit or not. These texts are spam – they neither mean you're owed or aren't owed PPI. It's just a shotgun approach, spraying messages to everyone in hope of response. As an aside, if you want to check if you're owed PPI you don't need to pay anyone. There is a free template letters available at www.moneysavingexpert.com/ppi this will help do it for free.

****** SAVE LANCASHIRE' POLICE HELICOPTER ******

Blackpool and Fylde Neighbourhood Watch and its wider Neighbourhood Watch partners are fiercely campaigning to save Lancashire Police Helicopter, Please show YOUR support by signing the petition.

https://www.change.org/p/chief-superintendent-tyron-joyce-save-lancashire-s-police-helicopter?recruiter=207774651&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive