



Alresford and District Neighbourhood Watch Association



Cold calling

Spring is on its way and the days are getting longer. Evening cold callers may be emerging from their winter quarters and hitting the streets.

What is cold calling?

Cold calling is the act of making uninvited visits to a resident's home to sell goods or services.

Is cold calling illegal?

Cold calling is not illegal. However, any trader that ignores a sticker or notice on your door stating that you do not wish to receive cold calls may be committing a criminal offence. Also, any trader that ignores any requests by you to leave and not return is committing a criminal offence.

Should I buy from cold callers?

We believe residents have a right to choose whether or not they wish to deal with cold callers. By displaying a sticker or sign on your door, you should be able to expect your wishes to be respected. Our advice is never to deal with cold callers. Cold calling is a favorite method of rogue traders whose only aim is to get as much money from their victims as possible. Even if you avoid dealing with rogue traders, those who cold call will usually be persuasive and often catch you when you least expect it and your guard is down. It is difficult to make the right buying decision on your doorstep.

No Cold Calling Zones

No Cold Calling Zones are set up to prevent cold calling and reduce the risk of doorstep crime. Interested residents get together to apply for the creation of a zone. These zones can comprise of the following examples: a group of houses, a whole road or a group of roads. More info can be found at - <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/tradingstandards/tradingstandards-nocoldcalling/nccz.htm>

Good news locally

It should be noted that unsolicited phone calls are another form of cold calling and recently 3 people in Alton were arrested for being engaged in phoning vulnerable residents, claiming to be police officers and forcefully trying to elicit card details and cash from them. One victim phoned the police and when the offender arrived for collection he was arrested with two others found nearby in a car complete with telephone directory and mobile phone!

If you believe you are the victim of a scam or a rogue trader phone 101 with information to help the police deal with the perpetrators.