

This is a message from Northamptonshire West Police...

It has come to the attention of Leicestershire Police that in a part of the Midlands, Consumer Direct has received calls from worried residents (mainly elderly) telling of opportunist traders' cold-calling, offering to clear driveways of snow for £50.

As always, the advice is to not open the door to unknown callers.

We would ask NHW members to keep an eye on the elderly and vulnerable in their vicinity, especially in this cold snowy weather and to check they are alright and do not need help clearing a pathway or need any shopping.

NB. If traders make a cold call and offer services/goods costing more than £35, they must give a written notice of cancellation rights. If this is not given, they are committing a criminal offence and cannot legally demand any payment for the "work" they claim to have done.

Householders should not be forced into making a quick decision on the doorstep. They should get at least 3 quotes from local reputable companies.

Trading Standards "Trusted Trader" schemes, Buy with Confidence schemes and other local recommended trader's registers should be able to recommend a suitable trader.

Call the Northamptonshire Police switchboard on 08453 700700 or dial 999 in an emergency. Alternatively you can call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.