

Door-to-Door Fraud

Door-to-door scams involve criminals knocking on your door and unexpectedly offering products or services. Fraudsters convince you to pay for goods or work which is often overpriced, of poor quality or is not even carried out. In many cases, this work is not necessary. They may use intimidation and pressure you to make quick decisions so that you agree to their demands.

Criminals may try to convince you that work is urgently required and the price they are charging is fair. They will put pressure on you to have the work done immediately and may ask for payment upfront. Often the work is not completed, or if it is, the work is to a poor standard. You may also be overcharged for any work done.

They can use deception to convince you:

- Claiming they were working on a neighbour's address and noticed you need work completed and they have left over materials.
- They may inspect areas you can't access, for example the loft or roof and show you photos or videos claiming they are evidence that you need the urgent repairs. Beware of these tactics as these images may not even be your property.
- They may throw water down when you are not looking to indicate you have 'damp'.
- They may be insistent you pay in cash immediately or put down a deposit, even offering to take you to the bank to get the money. If you do this, they may continue to find reasons for you to pay more money.
- Some callers will be legitimate. Gas, electricity and water companies may visit to read your meters. Charities may visit to ask for donations and council officials may contact you regarding local issues. **Always** ask for identification and tell them to wait outside whilst you check this by calling the company or speaking to a relative or friend. If you are calling the company, **don't** use the phone number on the person's ID card).

How to protect yourself

- **Always** check their identity. If you are not happy about a person's identity, do not let them into your house under any circumstances.
- **Never** leave your front door open/unlocked and unattended, so a second individual can't enter without your knowledge.
- If you feel pressured by any cold caller, have the confidence to be firm and say **no**.