

CORONA VIRUS SCAM ALERT

WEST YORKSHIRE TRADING STANDARDS NEWSLETTER



West Yorkshire Trading Standards has seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 related scams.

What Scams are trending at the moment in West Yorkshire?



There's something fishy going on in Leeds...

Traders in Leeds reported to be selling fish & seafood on the doorstep, using high pressure sales tactics to target consumers who are isolating due to covid-19 . They are reported to have a mobile card machine to take payment at the door. However, through various means, they overcharge the consumer- for example entering £449.00 in to the card machine instead of £49.00, through distraction techniques. The consumer often doesn't realise until a later date, getting a nasty shock when they check their bank statement.

Scams Trending Regionally & Nationally

- Fraudsters have set up fake websites, impersonating the NHS website. The websites contain numerous links that claim to offer updates about COVID-19. But clicking on the links prompts the user to download and save a file called COVID19.exe. This file contains information stealing malware.
- There are still reports of scam callers claiming to be from NHS Test and Trace service asking for payment details in order to purchase a test kit. The NHS will not ask you to pay for a test kit and will not ask for your bank account details. Please check the Government website for further guidance.
- Reports of pre-recorded scam messages telling consumers that there is a fraudulent claim against their Income Tax. The message encourages the call recipient to call a premium rate telephone number.
- Reports of fraudulent websites selling face masks and coverings, charging customers, but not delivering the goods.

DOORSTEP CRIMINALS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THOSE ISOLATING AT HOME

Top Tips

YOUR DOORSTEP YOUR DECISION

If you feel pressured,
ask the person to leave.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

ARE BEST

Support from

trusted friends, family or
neighbours is ideal. Be vigilant
for strangers offering services at the
door that may want to take
advantage.

NO SNAP DECISIONS

Take time to talk to someone
you trust before you make any
decisions.

DO THE CHECKS

You can check ID badges and
contact associations to check
membership registrations yourself.
Call the telephone number of the
organisation, obtain this number
yourself, not from the person at the
door.

The week in stats...

West Yorkshire = 34 COVID-19
intelligence logs submitted
from 01.06.2020 to 07.06.2020 and 24
complaints / enquiries

COVID-19 intelligence logs for Yorkshire
& Humber Region from 01.06.20 to
07.06.20 = 52

Total Amount of National
Trading Standards Sanitised
Intelligence Logs = 5215
(01.03.2020- 07.06.2020)

Receiving lots of nuisance calls?

Have you checked to see if you are on the
open register? Your details may be sold
on the open register to third party
marketing companies. You can contact
your local councils' electoral services
department & opt into the closed register
if you wish. You can also register with the
Telephone Preference Service- it's Free!

www.tpsonline.org.uk

Report to us:

New mailbox to deal
with reports of Covid-19 Scams in
West Yorkshire:

Covid19.Scams@wyjs.org.uk

Report complaints to

Citizens Advice

Consumer Helpline: 0808

223 1133

Report scams to Action Fraud:

0300 123 2040



@wytradstandards

Regular updates can also be
found on:

 @SAFERProject