

In the fight against crime, Police and partner agencies rely heavily on support and information from the general public - without you giving your support and information, it is harder for us to piece together the bigger picture of what is going on within our communities.

SO...

**“DO YOU WANT TO HELP TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER?”**

If the answer to this question is “YES”, and you have any information on this type of criminal activity within our communities, here are a number of ways you can let us know.

- Call Police Scotland on 101
- Contact Trading Standards on 01463 228700
- Citizens Advice Consumer Service’s 0345 4040506



**POLICE  
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe



Highland & Islands  
Division

Trading  
Standards

## Bogus Tradesmen

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Recently we have had a report of possible Bogus Tradesmen working in your area.

We believe that all communities in the Highlands & Islands deserve to live their lives free from crime, disorder and danger. With this in mind we would like to ask for your support in our drive against doorstep crime.

'Doorstep Crime' has a devastating impact on the lives of older victims and has potentially serious consequences for their life chances. Older adults in particular are at risk from **Bogus Callers**, who try and gain entry into your home by pretending to be someone they are not i.e. Council Staff, Meter Readers, Water Board Employees and also doorstep **Rogue Traders** who will cold call claiming to be workers offering to carry out work or repairs on your house, garden or driveway for substandard work at grossly inflated prices.

## REMEMBER

**IF YOU SEE A CRIME BEING COMMITTED PLEASE TELEPHONE 999  
IMMEDIATELY AND ASK FOR POLICE**

### **PREVENT A CRIME OR HELP US CATCH A CRIMINAL**

Have you been the victim of a Doorstep Crime? Or do you know someone that has? If the answer is yes, please give us some details in the box below. The sort of things we are interested in are their names, ages, addresses, what they are doing and when, what cars or vehicles they use, and any information which would help us to catch them. We would prefer it if everyone within the community was willing to stand up and be counted but, if for any reason, you do not want to give your name we will understand. You can still put the information in the box below, anonymously and send to Interventions, DCU, Police Headquarters, Old Perth Road, Inverness IV2 3SY

We must work together if we want our towns and villages to remain one of the safest places to live and work in Scotland.

**YOU DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

WHAT IS YOUR NAME? WHAT IS YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER? WHAT IS YOUR ADDRESS? WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE PROVIDED WITH A POLICE OFFICER? IF YES, HOW CAN WE CONTACT YOU?

## **Beat the Bogus Caller**

Following these 8 steps can help protect you from becoming a victim of doorstep crime:

1. Use the door viewer when answering the door
2. Check identification badges of anyone calling at your door
3. If you don't know the person who is calling, and you're not expecting them, don't let them in
4. If you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it
5. Never let people try to persuade you to let them into your home. If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and arrange for a friend or family member to be with you
6. Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door
7. Don't keep large amounts of money in your home
8. If the person refuses to leave your door, dial 101 and ask for the Police



Highland Council Trading Standards advise:

- Don't agree to repair work being done on the spot – shop around first
- Don't get taken in by sales talk or high pressure selling techniques
- Think very carefully before you agree to a trader starting any work straight away
- Avoid handing over money before work is started
- Never agree to go with a trader to the bank to get money out

Further information can be found at:

[http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20000/trading\\_standards](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20000/trading_standards)

**Don't keep it to yourself - Report it.**