

Steve

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Sent: 31 January 2012 11:02
To: nwatch@longsutton.org.uk
Subject: Ringmaster Email - SOMERSET WEST - F004 31012012

[RINGMASTER COMMUNITY MESSAGING - SOMERSET WEST - F004 31012012]

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This is a general warning message to all members relating to bogus callers and cold calling.

There have been a number of reports of an increase in cold callers or bogus callers.

Most of these seem to be taking the form of contact by phone or by Email and can cover a range of topics. Some reports have been made of calls from companies alleging there is a problem with your home computer, or that someone in your household has an outstanding compensation claim against them, or that there is a need to check bank details, or that you have not applied for grants or compensation yourself. The list is endless.

There are a few simple rules to help avoid falling victim to such cons:

- * If the offer sounds too good to be true then it probably is,
- * NEVER give out personal information over the phone. In other words - just say no thank you and terminate the call.
- * If its an Email coming through to you with an address that you do not recognise then do not open it but delete it straight away - in case it contains a virus.
- * As always, don't have dealings with cold callers whether they are selling items or services, or whether they want to do work at the property (gutter cleaning etc). If you are looking for work to be done then contact companies yourself through local phone books and get more than one written quotation - personal recommendation from valued friends or family members can also be an advantage.

Whilst we do not wish to instil fear, we do think that taking the usual simple precautions will assist in preventing people becoming victims of crime or scams. A limited number of information leaflets on this type of matter are available from the Neighbourhood Watch Office at Bridgwater 01823-363348.

If you have information about any crime, phone the police on 101 or you can call anonymously to the independent charity CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111. For general information about Neighbourhood Watch nationally see the www.ourwatch.org.uk website.