



CORONA VIRUS SCAM ALERT

WEST YORKSHIRE TRADING STANDARDS NEWSLETTER

West Yorkshire Trading Standards weekly update on COVID-19 related scams.

Investment Fraud Warning: Ponzi Schemes on the rise

Action Fraud has seen an increase in reports from people falling victim to Ponzi-style schemes that were advertised to them as “investment” opportunities.



A Ponzi scheme is a type of fraud where victims are lured into the false promise of lucrative “investment” opportunities. The fraudsters perpetrating the scheme will sometimes pay some of the victims a little money as a way to convince them that the scheme is legitimate and to also incentivise them to recruit other victims.

Top Tips:

- **FCA Register:** Use the Financial Conduct Authority’s (FCA) register to check if the company is regulated by the FCA.
- **Don’t be rushed into making an investment.**
- **Seek Independent Professional Advice:** Before making significant financial decisions, speak with a trusted advisor who isn’t involved with the investment; this is equally important if you’re introduced to the scheme by someone you know.

In West Yorkshire...

Rogue Trader offering 'free' cavity wall insulation and a free boiler upgrades.

Reports of a Rogue Trader cold calling homes in Huddersfield offering 'free' cavity wall insulation and 'free' boiler upgrades. The Trader claimed to offer 'free home improvements' regardless of whether, "you're on benefits or not, you are guaranteed to get the free upgrades". This is false. Please note that the Government Green Homes Scheme is not yet live and any traders offering services for 'free' are likely to be false.





Reports of flyers offering 'free' cctv systems during the pandemic, with false claims that burglaries are on the rise.



Although reports have been outside of West Yorkshire please be vigilant for this tactic turning up on your / a loved one's doorstep. Check full terms and conditions and make sure you understand the costs of the installation and monitoring services. Use caution with flyers and offers that sound too good to be true, and especially with any uninvited doorstep callers. **Remember it's your doorstep, your decision.**

Report to us:

Mailbox to deal with reports of Covid-19 Scams in West Yorkshire:
Covid19.Scams@wyjs.org.uk

The week in stats...

West Yorkshire = 5 COVID-19 intelligence logs submitted from 13.07.2020 - 19.07.2020 and 12 complaints / enquiries

COVID-19 intelligence logs for Yorkshire & Humber Region from 13.07.2020 - 19.07.2020 =20

Total Amount of National Trading Standards Sanitised Intelligence Logs – 6351 (01.03.2020- 19.07.2020)

Past issues of our news alert can be found on the West Yorkshire Joint Services website. Just look for the Trading Standards Service and Covid-19 resources page.

Report scams to Action Fraud:
0300 123 2040

Forward scam emails to
report@phishing.gov.uk



@wytradstandards

Regular updates can also be found on:

f @SAFERProject

For information about SAFER online workshops contact safer@wyjs.org.uk

Report complaints to Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline:
0808 223 1133