



Scam Emails

- There have been a number of reports of residents receiving an e-mail purporting to be from Greater Manchester Police and within it is a NOTICE OF INTENDED PROSECUTION – SEE BELOW.

It is a SCAM and Greater Manchester Police are aware and investigating the source.

The scam 'Notice of Intended Prosecution' would be followed up by a request/offer of a fine to avoid a court appearance.

Greater Manchester Police have issued a warning regarding the e-mail.

As with any legal documentation, a Notice of Intended Prosecution would always be posted to the address of the owner/driver and never e-mailed.

Your Ref: F62U92HOJ8

Notice of Intended Prosecution (NIP) Information

In accordance with Section 1 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988, we hereby inform you that it is intended to take proceedings against the driver of motor vehicle.

Details of the Violation

- **Time & Date:** at 12:35 on 30/11/2016
- **Fixed Speed Camera UIN:** 8YXT9
- **Location:** A579 Newbrook Road, South of Firs Road, Bolton
- **Offence:** EXCEED 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT
- **Vehicle Speed:** 74

We have photographic data that the driver of motor vehicle failed to adhere with a speed limit at the date, time and location.

You have been announced as driver of the vehicle at the time of the alleged offence and have a legal obligation to comply with the provisions of the notice.

Check The Photographic Evidence

Whether you agree with the NIP or not you have to fill out the section 172 notice declaring who was driving the car at the time of the offence within 28 days. The NIP with the section 172 notice were sent to your mailing address.

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If you receive such an e-mail, DO NOT OPEN IT OR ANY ATTACHMENTS, delete it immediately.

- Over Christmas copycat websites pop up all over the internet.

There have been recent reports about several Pandora charm websites offering goods at “bargain” prices.

However, when orders have been placed the goods have either been counterfeit or didn't turn up at all.

One consumer even had additional funds taken from their account after they made a transaction.

Don't be fooled by these sites:

1. Do your research online and look at reviews.
2. Check the content of the site itself. Are there spelling errors? These are often a giveaway of if a site is legitimate or not.
3. Is there a contact us page? If not, there is a good reason why they don't want you to get back in touch.

Scam Phone Calls

- The microsoft scam is still ongoing. A local resident received a phone call from a withheld number and a female asking her if she could access her computer, stating they were calling from Microsoft and that her computer had a number of viruses. The resident does not have a working computer and therefore cleared the line.
- There have been reports of cold calls being made via telephone by a security company purporting to be approved by the police and other emergency services.

On the call they try to make an appointment for a sales rep to visit your home. Whilst at your home they will give you the hard sell on devices such as burglar/fire alarms.

The company appears to be intensively targeting individuals, so if you or a family member are called out of the blue by a company like this:

1. Don't make an appointment.
2. Ask them not to call again.
3. Contact Citizens Advice on 03454 04 05 06 if they persist.



Cold Callers

- There have been numerous reports in the Over Wyre and Thornton Cleveleys areas recently of a male calling door to door claiming to be deaf and selling paintings to feed his children. This is believed to be a scam and has been reported around the country.

The caller will hand over a note to you stating they are deaf and that they would like to sell you a hand drawn picture/painting. Victims will pay in the region of £10-£15 for one and later discover it to be a photocopy.

The 'artists' prey on people's compassion to get them to part with their money, mainly targeting older or vulnerable people.

Trading Standards advice is never buy goods on the doorstep. If you are suspicious of any activity report it to the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506 or contact the police on 101.

Residents should take basic crime prevention measures and be on their guard against cold callers of any nature:

- **Ensure you keep your front and back doors locked – even while you are at home.**
- **Please also be vigilant when answering your door – always use a door chain and don't let any strangers into your house.**
- **If you feel threatened by a caller, always call the police on 999.**

If you have any doubt about who is at your door, DON'T ANSWER IT.

Scam Letters

- A local NHW member has received a letter purporting to be from a lawyer in Spain, who is acting on behalf of a deceased person who has died intestate. The letter states that they have an account for a large sum of money left by this person and they have failed to locate any relatives of the deceased. They go on to suggest they can have the recipient of the letter presented as the only living next of kin to the late account owner and that the money would be released to them and they could share it with the sender of the letter! The same member has also received a similar letter from China.

Please do not respond to any letters or emails of this kind – they are scams.

Rogue Traders

- A local resident reported a male calling at her elderly mother's house in the Carnforth area and asking her for £30 as he needed to cut down a tree that was overhanging her wall. She told him she had no money and that her daughter dealt with her finances and she would be arriving shortly. He told her he would call back which he did, stating he had cut some part of a tree down and wanted £30 but the occupant told him she didn't keep any money in the house. He returned when the lady's daughter was there and she told him nothing needed doing and not to return.
- A resident in Thornton Cleveleys reported a male knocking on his door asking if he wanted his gutters clearing. There were other males knocking on other doors in the street.

Cold callers offering property repairs, especially roofing, is one of the most common scams.

Trading Standards advice is never do business with cold callers.

14th December 2016