



## PEDLARS

Essex Police is advising residents to be mindful of whom they open their front doors to anyone.

Door-to-door salespeople have a habit of turning up when not expected and can be very difficult to get rid of once you've opened the door to them.

Police have become aware that a group of young salesmen, occasionally dubbed the 'Nottingham Knockers', have been calling in parts of the county.

Named after a scam originating in Nottingham, young people travel across the UK targeting a town at a time.

They knock at doors and claim to be ex-offenders attempting to mend their ways, before trying to sell the householder everyday household products at heightened prices.

Police always advise residents to refrain from buying at the doorstep and not to buckle to pressure from salespeople offering supposedly one-off, 'buy it now', low prices.

However, often kind-hearted residents feel they are helping to turn the caller's lives around so agree to buy their wares.

These callers work in groups across the country but they are not involved in any officially recognised offender rehabilitation programme and many do not possess pedlar's certificates, which are issued by police and are necessary for salespeople to be legally allowed to sell door-to-door.

Sympathetic members of the public are being duped into buying cheap products at highly-inflated prices and, indeed, on analysis of crime data, some UK regions have discovered a notable rise in crime during the times their local areas were being visited by this group.

"If a salesperson comes to your door, we'd suggest you ask to see their pedlar's certificate - these are only issued to individuals under very strict conditions.

You can contact the police station it was issued by in order to prove if it's genuine.

If a Caller as described above visits you, please inform police in order for us to keep track of where they are."

If you have any information which you think might be of help, please call Essex Police on 101 and state that you would like to report a pedlar.

Finally why not look on Google under "How to apply for a Pedlar's Certificate" as all the information is there for you to understand what a person who is selling at YOUR door needs to allow that person to be lawful.

*As a guideline a "facsimile/copy" of what an approved Pedlars certificate looks like can be obtained from your local Neighbourhood Watch Group.*

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