Doorstep Crime

Traders might knock on your door offering services like:

- Gardening work
- Building work
- Offering to fix your driveway, guttering or roof
- Say they are from the Water Board and that there is a leak they need to check
- Or they might say they are looking for their dog, or that their car has broken down.

Sometimes, the caller at the door is there to distract you while another person gains access to your home.

They might try and rush you into making a decision or sign a contract for buying their services, or try and keep you talking for a long time.

⚠ WHAT THEY REALLY WANT ⚠

▶ For you to pay them for 'fixing' a non-existent problem.

▶ For you to pay them an extortionate amount of money for shoddy or sub-standard work.

▶ To gain access to your home so they can steal your property while you are distracted.

What to do if you get a caller like this?

- Never accept an offer like this or sign a contract for a passing trader to work on your property. Visit www.**buywithconfidence**.gov.uk if you are looking for work to be done.

- Make sure windows and doors at the back of the house are closed and locked if you are distracted at the front. If you will be upstairs for a period of time, ensure all downstairs windows and doors are secure.

- All utility companies have a service called the Priority Services Register – through this you can set up a password for any future visitors from the company. This way, if you do get an unexpected visit, you can ask for the registered password.

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WHAT IF THIS HAPPENS TO YOU?

REPORT. Call Hampshire Constabulary on **101** and ask for **Op. Signature** to report that this has happened, or call 999 if you feel intimidated and they won't leave. Details about them and any vehicles will help the police to identify them.

SUPPORT. Call the Victim Care Service on **0808 1689 111** for practical and emotional support.

TELL 2 PEOPLE. Telling a few people who can support you means they can help keep you safe and are aware of the scams that might catch people out.

POLICE & CRIME **COMMISSIONER**

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