

# Beware of bogus callers in stolen British Gas uniforms

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**Police have urged households to check the ID of anybody who claims to be a British Gas worker**

Britain's biggest energy supplier has warned people to watch out for visitors pretending to be staff after some of its uniforms were stolen in London.

British Gas told people to verify the authenticity of anyone claiming to be from the company. "If you're unsure, don't let them in," it tweeted.

Police in London have also urged households to be vigilant and check the ID of anyone purporting to be a British Gas worker. The company is part of Centrica, which employs more than 30,000 people in the UK and North America and reported profits of £1.25 billion last year.

It supplies gas and electricity to more than 7 million households in Britain and has a significant home services business offering boiler repairs and other maintenance work. It also has a "small army" of staff, agents and contractors installing smart meters. Last week the company tweeted that "some of our uniforms have been stolen from the borough of Brent area", adding that police were aware of the theft.

It advised anyone visited by someone claiming to be from British Gas to check that the caller was genuine by asking to see an ID card, which should include the company name, the person's photograph, a telephone number to check their identity and an expiry date.

Reports of the stolen uniforms appear to have originated from the policing team in Willesden, which tweeted earlier this month to urge people to check with British Gas if they were visited by someone purporting to be from the company who did not have an appointment. "Do not let them in, keep your door securely shut, if in doubt call 999," it said.

A spokeswoman for British Gas said that there had been no reports of crimes being committed by people using the stolen uniforms.

The tactic was used by thieves in July when an elderly couple in Merseyside were targeted by several men wearing British Gas uniforms. They knocked on the door of the couple's house in Bootle ostensibly to warn them of works due to take place on their road. While the couple were distracted, other members of the group got into the house and stole several thousand pounds.