

NOTTINGHAM KNOCKERS:

Door Step Callers - Oxford

Thames Valley Police would like inform residents of Oxford that at this time of year we start to see arise in doorstep callers sometimes called the “Nottingham Knockers”.

What are Nottingham Knockers?

They are doorstep callers who target areas offering small household products for sale. Sometimes called ‘Nottingham Knockers’ these callers may claim to be ex-convicts attempting to mend their ways.

However the Nottingham Knockers are not part of any recognised rehabilitation scheme.

Please warn your neighbours, particularly elderly or vulnerable neighbours, not to open the door to strangers or buy or sell on the doorstep. Some doorstep callers may offer poor quality goods at inflated prices and if a caller is not genuine, they may be gathering information for future crime.

How they work

The sellers may say that they are on a “rehabilitation course” arranged by probation services or other organisations trying to find people work. This is not the case and often they are known criminals. Probation services do not run such schemes.

They may show a card which claims to be a “Pedlars Licence” or work permit. They may also hand over a card saying they are deaf or dumb.

Usually they are deposited in an area from a transit van and given a list of streets to work. An hour or so later they are picked up and dropped off in another location. They often work from 9am to 9pm.

They will knock on a door, offering cleaning items which they know are cheap and of very poor quality; the householder also knows they are rubbish but that is part of the scam.

Many people will purchase items and pay them something, just to get rid of them. There have been cases of elderly residents handing over large sums as these lads can be very persistent and confrontational.

TURN THEM AWAY - REMEMBER if cold callers don’t get any sales in your area, they are less likely to return.

If you do get any doorstep callers please could you report immediately to the Police on the Non Emergency number 101.

Message sent by

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