

HELP STOP ILLEGAL PEDLARS



Essex Police are advising residents to be mindful of who they open their front doors to – 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.

The Police have become aware that a group of young salesmen, sometimes dubbed the 'Nottingham Knockers', have been calling in parts of Essex. Named after a scam originating in Nottingham, these 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 these 'salespeople' offering supposedly one-off, 'buy it now', low prices. However, kind-hearted residents mistakenly feel they are helping to turn the caller's lives around and 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 – also some UK regions have discovered a notable rise in crime during the times their local areas were being visited by this group.

Police advise: *"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 fitting the above description visits you, please inform the police in order for us to keep track of where the group are."*

A facsimile/copy of what an approved Pedlars Certificate looks like can be obtained from your local Neighbourhood Watch Group.

If you have any information which you think might be of help in preventing this activity, please call Essex Police on 101 and report the Pedlars.



Clive Stewart, Chairman, Essex County NW Association.