

### **Doorstep traders – Alarm systems!!**

There has been a rise in the number of unsolicited sales calls both on the doorstep and by telephone calls, especially to the elderly to sell alarm systems. These companies quite often make false claims and can be aggressive in their sales pitch.

Please always consider:

1. **No alarm system will be free** or very cheap. Beware of high maintenance fees, monitoring fees or sometimes premium rate telephone numbers are used by the system in the monitoring.
2. **No** commercial alarm systems are monitored by the police.
3. The police **do not** recommend or endorse alarm companies.
4. The police **do** recommend that if you are having an alarm fitted that you choose an alarm system that is accredited to NACOS or NSI.
5. The police **do not** guarantee a response to an alarm system.
6. The police **do not** work in conjunction with any security companies.
7. **Do** get more than one quote preferably three.
8. **Consider** joining the Telephone Preference Service to reduce the number of unsolicited telephone calls - <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk/tps/> or 0845 070 0707.
9. **If it seems too good to be true then it probably is.**

If you do received unsolicited calls from security companies contact Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

Security advice can always be obtained free from your local Crime Reduction Advisor by ringing 0300 333 4444.

Stephen Armson-Smith  
Braintree District Crime Reduction Advisor.