

Computer Viruses and World Cup Scammers -Trading Standards Warning

15 June 2010

Lancashire Trading Standards is warning consumers to beware of bogus telephone callers currently ringing Lancs residents. The callers claim to be from one of the large software providers. They inform consumers that their computers are full of viruses, and then request credit card details in order to charge a fee of typically around £70. As well as the loss of money, there is also the potential future fraud once criminals get hold of a customer's credit card details. An additional worry is in case they ask consumers to install a program to give the scam company remote control of your computer.

A second warning is linked to lottery scammers, who have seized on the World Cup to mass-mail Lancashire consumers with 'winning' letters purporting to be from the '2010 FIFA World Cup Promotion'. The worry is that many people will have purchased tickets and entered competitions related to the World Cup, and are therefore more likely to respond, believing the letters to be genuine. This particular letter fraudulently bears several brand logos from World Cup sponsors- McDonalds, Budweiser, Continental etc- and purports to be from the UK Bond Security Company, giving false addresses on Canary Wharf and Oxford Street in London. Consumers are asked to phone or fax their bank details to numbers provided.

Please refer any complaints to Lancashire Trading Standards Service, 55 Guildhall Street, Preston, Lancs PR1 3NU via Consumer Direct tel 08454 040506 and ask them to pass the information to trading standards straight away.

Warning issued by Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service.