

Trading Standards

Stop Crime – Hang Up!

Beware of Fake Phonecalls

A Croydon resident has just alerted us to a telephone call he received from someone who said they were calling from 'CrimeStoppers', the helpline that members of the public can call to report crimes or provide information to the Police.

The caller told the resident that the Police had received a complaint about him and that they had a warrant out for his arrest. The resident remained calm and started to ask the caller questions, such as, if the Police have a warrant for my arrest then why don't they just come and arrest me?

The number that the person was calling from 'appeared' to be the CrimeStoppers telephone number; and they made a point of drawing this to the attention of the resident. However, it is known that scammers are able to make their telephone numbers appear to be legitimate ones when they are trying to scam someone, similar to the copycat websites that some set up. The caller tried various avenues to obtain personal information from the resident, at one point suggesting that they go to a Police Station and turn themselves in! Instead, the resident hung up.

Had the resident become flustered and panicked when he heard about the Police warrant, the caller would most certainly have told them that the warrant could be cancelled and the matter sorted out by the resident making a payment to them over the telephone. This is a common type of scam where the callers say things like income tax is owed, or that the person has been caught speeding, but the common thread is always that an immediate payment to the caller or their colleague will 'sort the whole matter out'.

The Police, the Courts and HMRC will always write to you about these sorts of matters, so if you do get a call of this type, just **HANG UP!**