

★ JOIN THE FIGHT ★

Suffolk Consumer Champion

Weekly Bulletin

03/03/2017

This week's top features



100th No Cold Calling Zone

Today we celebrate the launch of our 100th No Cold Calling Zone in Suffolk. The launch is taking place in The Fairway, Lowestoft at 11:30am, which includes 44 households.

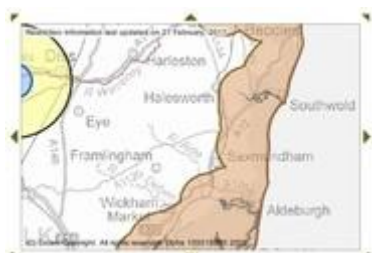
Since the first zone was launched in April 2009, in Maryon Road and Grassmere Close in Ipswich, more than 4,500 households across the county are protected within No Cold Calling Zones.

No Cold Calling Zones are set up in areas where residents have identified they do not want visits from unsolicited or 'cold' callers. The zones are created in partnership with Trading Standards, the police, neighbourhood watch and local residents, and are marked with signs in the street and stickers displayed in residents' windows asking people not to call at their doors.

The creation of a zone is free to residents and is a simple, hassle-free process. The zone is a way for the community to say collectively that doorstep callers are not welcome. The zone aims to empower residents to feel safer and more secure in their own homes.

Trading Standards are supported with the use of Consumer Protection legislation which means that if doorstep cold calling is carried out in a zone by a trader or company a criminal offence may have occurred and Suffolk Trading Standards would investigate the cold call.

To nominate your street for a No Cold Calling Zone, please contact Suffolk Trading Standards on (01473) 264859 or email us at: tradingstandards@suffolk.gov.uk



High Risk Bird Flu Zones

The Government Chief Vet has confirmed new measures to protect against avian flu that take a more targeted approach to controlling the disease.

Following plans set out in February, all poultry keepers

across England [must continue to observe strict biosecurity measures, with housing or netting required in higher risk areas.](#)

This approach is based on the current situation and the latest veterinary advice, which concludes that it is the best option to control disease, protect birds' welfare and ensure consumers can buy free range products.

This new approach came in force on 28 February, when the previous prevention zone expired. It gives most keepers the option to let birds outside whilst still taking reasonable precautions against avian flu. The ban on poultry gatherings remains in force.

All poultry keepers - whether they keep a commercial flock or a few chickens in their back garden - must continue to practise strict disease prevention measures, following Defra's guidance to take steps to reduce the risk of infection via the environment.

In England Defra have defined a number of areas as 'Higher Risk Areas' (HRAs). What keepers must do depends on whether they are in one of these areas. [Please see the Defra guidance and interactive map here, to find out what rules apply to you.](#)



Irish Lottery Scam Victim

We are currently working with a scam victim who has been spending £30 a week on an Irish lottery scam, which had links to Australia.

The scammers used a variety of tactics to ensure the victim continued to send them money, including sending him details of how to spot a fake lottery draw (all details pointing towards one of their other lottery scams).

After he took the decision to stop sending them money, he then received a letter from them congratulating him for a win of £440, including that sum of money in the envelope in used notes – this was to try and encourage him to start again. He has sent far more than that to them.

Anyone who thinks they may be a victim of prize draw scams, or thinks someone they know may have been, should get in touch with us via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506.



Lorry Watch Event

Suffolk County Council's Trading Standards department operates a 'Lorry watch' scheme to help those parishes that feel local HGV Weight restriction Traffic Orders are being abused and are being overlooked by enforcement agencies.

Weight Restriction Orders are intended to protect old or weak bridges and structures, but they also can prohibit heavy vehicles from areas unsuitable for their size, for environmental reasons or if they pose a danger (e.g. narrow village roads).

Lorry Watch is an initiative set up in Suffolk, which empowers residents to prevent

goods vehicles from breaching weight restrictions in their community, by reporting potential illegal access via a set up system.

We have Lorry Watch Schemes in the following areas:

- Bungay
- Claydon & Whitton
- Coddensham
- Great Waldingfield, Sudbury
- Hadleigh
- Holton
- Sproughton

On Tuesday 7th March at 11am, we are providing training in Bungay for anyone wishing to be an observer in that area. If you would like to attend, or would like more details on the scheme please call us on 01473 264849.

News stories and sources of advice



[Product recalls](#)



[Fraud and Scam Advice](#)



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Contact Us

Call: 03454 040506

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