



## **Information Notice for Circulation**

### **To All Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators**

In recent weeks there have been a number of reported incidents of security and alarm companies' cold calling on people and offering free alarm systems to householders. These companies also quote crime figures, which do not relate to the area and appear to be frightening people into purchasing alarm systems or taking "free" alarms, which then incur an annual cost to monitor the system. Some companies' even state that the alarm systems are endorsed by Lothian and Borders Police and by the local authority. On occasions companies have even quoted local police officers names as endorsing an alarm system during a telephone call.

Do not be taken in by such sales techniques. **Lothian and Borders Police never endorse any specific alarm company.** We do offer advice on alarm standards and free general crime prevention advice. I would advise anyone who has doubts as to the content or accuracy of such telephone calls to contact your local police station or the A Division Safer Communities Department on 0131 469 5512 for advice, and to advise the company representative who has called that you will be doing this.

Shiona Campbell of Scottish Scambusters (National Trading Standards Enforcement Team) says, "I would advise consumers not to buy anything based on a cold call. If the product or price you are being offered sounds too good to be true then it probably is. If you are making a major purchase, try to get at least 3 quotes from reputable companies."

**PS Duthie**

**Corstorphine Community Office**