



21 DECEMBER 2020



Dear Kent Residents,

Do you know that **42%** of Kent's 1.5 million people are likely to become targets of doorstep criminals? And according to the Federation of Master Builders **"Cowboy builders are costing us all £10 billion a year!"**

I personally see the results of this horrendous crime all too often and it's time to stop these criminals! As part of our **Keep Kent Safe** campaign, you will receive an email once a month from a KCC Community Warden to help you recognise, avoid and help stamp out doorstep crime in Kent.

Please be aware and stay safe.

Elaine Mount

Victim Safeguarding Officer - KCC Trading Standards

A victim's story - Peter aged 80


One of the victims that I have helped is Peter, he is an 80-year-old widower who has a heart condition. Peter lives alone in the family home which is a large property that he struggles to maintain.

Doorstep criminals took advantage of Peter and took his life savings. This horrible crime left him so distressed he considered “ending it all”.

In this video I tell Peter's story in the hope it will stop others from becoming victims.



Doorstep crime is financial abuse and ruins many lives. If Kent residents stopped opening the door to these criminals there would be no opportunity for them to devastate people's lives and steal their life savings.



**Keeping Kent safe
from doorstep criminals.**
Trades checked like no other.

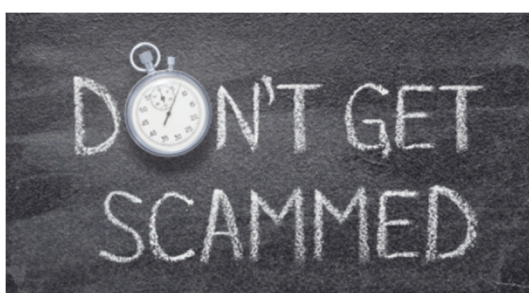


To address doorstep crime and stop our residents from becoming victims, Kent County Council created **Trading Standards Checked**. It is a programme run by Kent County Council and only operates in Kent.

Trading Standards Intel team carries out extensive checks on local traders to give you peace of mind when choosing a tradesperson to work in your home

Please help to keep your family and community safe. If you need work done in your home or garden, visit the website to find a local trusted business.

[Visit our website](#)



As well as doorstep criminals you may be targeted by scams by mail that you get through your letterbox. Scammers are criminals who trick millions of people into parting with billions of pounds every year. [Find out more](#)

[Become a Scam Marshal](#). It is open to any resident in the UK who has been targeted by a scam and now wants to fight back and take a stand against scams.

Scam Marshals do this by sharing their own experiences, helping others to report and recognise scams



[Report](#) doorstep criminals as soon as you see them or tell your local [Community Warden](#) or [Police Officer](#).



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Contact Details



For advice and to report issues to **KCC Trading Standards** contact

[Citizens Advice consumer helpline](#) on **0808 223 1133**

[Consumer Advice scams action line](#) on **0808 250 5050**

Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

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