

Cold Calling Intruder Alarm Companies

Considering an intruder alarm? Think twice before you consider taking an offer up from a cold calling intruder alarm company. Quite often they will use high pressure sales tactics, make you an offer that appears to be too good to be true, somewhere may be concealed charges. If you are told the alarm goes through direct to the police then "alarm bells" should ring, the police do not monitor intruder alarms, they go to a commercial central monitoring station who contact police on a confirmed activation and if a certain criteria is fulfilled and resources are available then police attend.

With any cold callers, stop give yourself time to think about what is being offered, do a little research before coming to a decision, speak to friends or family, **don't be rushed**. Remember "if it appears too good to be true invariable it is" and "you get nothing for nothing". If you need something done or purchased speak to neighbours and friends and take on a trader by personal recommendation, or Trading Standards "Buy with Confidence" scheme www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or call 0345 404 0506.

Gone are the days when an alarm was an indication you have something to steal, there are so many out there now, and it has been proven that having an intruder alarm is a strong deterrent to burglars. Self-install or installed system, wired or wireless, bells only or self-monitored or call centre monitored, there are pros, cons and financial implications to each. If you go with an installed system we recommend that you use NSI www.nsi.co.uk or SSAIB www.ssaib.co.uk accredited companies (some are also "Buy with Confidence" vetted for extra peace of mind), and get at least three quotes to compare like for like.

If you have any further queries re alarms or any other security issue have a look at the Essex Police webpage www.essex.police.uk/advice/home-security/ .

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