

Witness appeal following bogus caller incident in Musselburgh



Police are appealing for witnesses after bogus workmen targeted an 85-year-old man in Musselburgh.

On Monday, November 14th, a male suspect made an unsolicited call to a home on Cottage Lane.

He told the elderly occupant that he was an 'inspector' and claimed that there were loose tiles on his roof that needed attention.

He then agreed with the occupier to return at a later date and provide him with a quote for the repair work.

At around 12:30pm the following day, he and another male attended the address to survey the alleged damage. They advised the man that they required a four-figure sum paid upfront in order to carry out the work.

The man, however, was unable to pay them and they left.

Police are now investigating this incident and are today urging anyone who can help identify either man to come forward.

The first male is described as between 35 and 40 years-old, around 5 feet 7 inches tall, had a heavy build with short hair and clean shaven. He was wearing a suit type jacket with blue denim jeans and spoke with a local accent.

His accomplice is believed to be of a similar age and height. He had a medium build, wore workman's trousers and also had a local accent.

Sergeant Derek MacDonald based at Tranent police station, said, "Fortunately, on this occasion, no money was handed over to these men but I would remind people never to feel pressured into handing cash over to a stranger at your door.

"Bogus callers can be extremely convincing and will use every opportunity to steal money or other items.

"Our message is straight forward, if you have any doubts then please do not let them into your home and don't hand over your personal details.

" Always ask for identification, as legitimate callers should be able to provide this without any issues.

"It's important to remember that you are under no obligation to let a stranger into your home and if you are unsure contact police."

Those with any information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.