

16th April 2021

SOLAR PANEL SCAMS

Essex has recently seen an increase in residents falling victim to rogue traders mis-selling solar panels.

Criminals target the vulnerable and those who already have solar panels to offer unnecessary maintenance contracts, extended warranties or battery replacements—all at a high price. One 'customer' in Rayleigh received forged paperwork, whereas most receive none. Following the payment, no service is provided.

Residents have been contacted via the phone or by cold callers knocking at the door. Contact out of the blue should always be treated as suspicious—don't be rushed to make a decision there and then.

Remember to Take Five:

- **STOP** - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **CHALLENGE** - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT** - Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

BOGUS CALLER



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on 101
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online at essex.police.uk

