

★ JOIN THE FIGHT ★

Suffolk Consumer Champion

Weekly Bulletin

10/02/2017

This week's top features



Newmarket Horse Box Seller Sentenced

A Trading Standards investigation into the sale of horse boxes with altered mileage concluded on Friday when the trader was sentenced.

Trading as Ascot Horseboxes, Jean Luc Guillambert, of Heasman Close, Newmarket, was sentenced to 10 months for each of his 11 offences of misleading actions under the Consumer Protection from

Unfair Trading Regulations Act 2008, suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to pay costs of £10,000.

Suffolk Trading Standards received a complaint about a horse lorry that had been sold with 56,000 miles on the odometer which was supported by an MOT certificate where the mileage history seemed to confirm this. When the consumer went to take the vehicle for an MOT nearly a year later, they discovered the mileage history actually indicated a mileage of at least 125,000 and that the MOT certificate he had been given had been altered.

After executing a warrant at Guillambert's home address, Suffolk Trading Standards officers obtained evidence of more horseboxes sold with altered mileages and/or altered MOT certificates.

[Read more about the case here.](#)



Romance Scams

With Valentines Day on the horizon we would like to use the opportunity to highlight the dangers and impact of romance scams.

This all-too-common scheme preys on victims' hopes of emotional connection and can result in them opening their wallets to someone they have never met in person.

There are over 200,000 victims of romance scams reported each year.

In Suffolk we are currently in contact with a number of romance scam victims, many of whom refuse to believe they are being scammed, and are continuing to send money and gifts to the fraudster.

One individual is sending money to a person in America, convinced that he is planning to move to the UK so that they can marry, another victim has been convinced to send money as well as high value items such as iPads and iPhones.

While some people do develop legitimate social and business relationships online, it is important for consumers to recognise potential red flags that may indicate an online 'connection' has ulterior financial motives.

Individuals can employ a few tactics to protect themselves from potential scams, including:

- Avoid giving too many personal details about yourself to anyone on the Internet until you are confident that you have come to know that person well;
- Search for information about people you meet on the Internet using Google or other search engines and pay attention if information about a person shows up with multiple names attached, or if his or her photo appears on a stock photowebsite; and
- Never send money or provide financial information to someone you have not met.
- If you use internet dating, keep all communication via that website – avoid using personal email addresses or social networks.

If you think someone you know is being scammed, call us via 03454 040506.



Bogus Advertising and Survey Calls

WARNING! Fraudsters are calling pretending to be from various Suffolk Councils, asking you to complete a survey.

We have also received reports of individuals contacting Suffolk businesses purporting to be from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and Ipswich Hospital, attempting to sell advertising space.

The callers have no connection with any of the local authorities or organisations.

Please do not engage with them, and do not give them any of your personal details. **HANG UP!**

Report any calls to Trading Standards via 03454 040506.

News stories and sources of advice



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[Suffolk Trading Standards News](#)



[Fraud and Scam Advice](#)



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[National Trading Standards News](#)



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Contact Us

Call: 03454 040506

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