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**Message sent by**

Lindsay Donnelly (Police, Administrator, Nottinghamshire)

**Not sure? Don't open the door**

Have you visited your elderly parents or grandparents recently?

Did you do your usual knock before walking in through the unlocked front door? Or have you developed an agreed secret knock so that they can then buzz you in?

Stop.

Nottinghamshire Police is reminding residents of the fundamental methods of locking doors and being on guard against bogus callers.

'Not sure? Don't open the door' is the message the Force is spreading among Nottinghamshire residents.

In a leaflet, to be circulated via local authorities and housing associations, residents are being offered the following advice:

Don't

- Let strangers into your home without checking their identity.
- Be pressured into purchasing items at the door.
- Employ a tradesperson without ensuring they are reputable.

Do

- Get quotes from more than one tradesperson. Look out for 'Buy With Confidence' and 'Trusted Traders' logos, ask local authorities or Age UK for reputable traders.
- Keep your front and back doors locked, even when you are at home.
- If you have one, always put the door chain on or use your spy hole when someone calls, even if you are expecting visitors.
- If you are 60+, sign up for the password scheme run by utility companies. It's proof of identity if the caller knows your designated password.

Detective Inspector Kev Broadhead said: "We are not just directing these messages to those who may be vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous people. We are also appealing to people to

look out for their relatives, friends and neighbours.

“Old habits are hard to break but don’t let your loved one learn the hard way.

“Don’t just keep walking into your relatives’ homes without considering how easy it might be for a criminal to do the same.

“Lock up and if you are not sure, don’t open the door.”

If you think you have been targeted by distraction burglars or bogus callers, or would like home security advice from your local beat team, contact police or call Crimestoppers anonymously.

**Attached files**

File name	File size
 <a href="#">Not sure A6.pdf</a>	424.7 KB

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