

# PRESS RELEASE

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## MEP IN PHONE SCAM WARNING

Ian Hudghton MEP (Scottish National Party) says all workers should be on the alert for phone scams which have resulted in burglaries being committed. The crimes have been committed when people out at work are coaxed into giving out their home address to bogus callers. The MEP was made aware of the scam via email this week and revealed that female employees in particular have been targeted.

Giving details of the scam, Mr Hudghton said:

"What is happening is that unsuspecting workers are phoned by people who claim to be from the Post Office and who ask them to confirm what their postcode is. In return for giving this information, they are told that they qualify for gift vouchers and have to provide their home address so that their "prize" can be sent out to them.

I was shocked to learn that 90% of women who were trapped in this web of deceit were burgled. These crooks are rightly assuming that their victims' homes are empty during office working hours and, armed with their address details, make an easy target.

I am informed that the Post Office are not carrying out any postcode surveys and that the police have been alerted to this cruel hoax but I do urge anyone who is contacted and asked to give out home address details to be very wary indeed.

Another phone scam I have been alerted to could cost domestic users a fortune on phone bills. In this scenario the hoaxers are targeting phone users, by claiming to be engineers testing the phone lines. If you are asked by anyone to dial 90, followed by the hash key, then to hang up – don't. If you follow their instructions you are giving carte blanche to these crooks to have full use of your phone line - and you will have to foot the bill.

We must all be vigilant to this type of stealth and I would urge everyone to be particularly careful to avoid being caught out by these criminals."

ENDS-