

Important Information for Schools

Health and Safety publication invoices

Derbyshire schools are being approached by cold callers purporting to work for an organisation called Health and Safety for Schools and Colleges.

The caller requests to speak to the individual responsible for health and safety at the school and subsequently offers a 'free' health and safety newsletter as part of a launch offer. This newsletter is described as an eight page document covering aspects of health and safety such as accident prevention and safeguarding for students.

Although this offer is initially described as 'free', schools have reported receiving quarterly invoices from the company behind the scheme for continued receipt of a monthly publication at a cost of £98.98.

Following receipt of the invoice one school challenged the company as they had no record of this agreement being made, at which point the company provided the school with a recording of the cold call evidencing acceptance of the free trial by a school staff member. Although the free trial was accepted, it was not until the end of the call that the Health and Safety for Schools and Colleges representative briefly indicated that a subscription would continue thereafter.

Schools are advised that caution should be exercised when accepting any goods or services described as 'free' to ensure that engagement with potentially sharp business practices is avoided. Further instances of schools receiving invoices from these companies should be promptly reported to audit services.