

## **Debt Collection Scam**

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Hampshire Trading Standards Service has received reports from aggrieved residents about fraudulent debt collection letters.

In two cases, this would appear to be a 'second wave' scam whereby the aggrieved had previously been subjected to a time share fraud.

### **Case Study**

Mr M received a letter from a fictional debt collection agency alleging he owed approximately £2000 to the Spanish courts in connection with a time share. They said unless he phoned to pay the alleged debt as a matter of urgency, he would receive a County Court Judgment and end up owing more money. Whilst the envelope was addressed to Mr M, the letter appeared generic and was addressed to Sir/Madam.

In a separate incident, Mrs L received an identical letter.

Both Mr M and Mrs L recognised this was most likely a scam, and thankfully no money was lost.

Treat any communication asking for money with caution, even if it appears to be from a debt collection agency or a well known organisation such as HMRC or the DVLA. If you do not owe money, and if the letter is sent from abroad, it is most likely a scam.