

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Press Release – Bogus number postal scam email causes concern

30th November 2010

Monmouthshire's Trading Standards service has issued an alert about an out of date warning circulating on the Internet causing concern to the public.

A chain email cautions against an alleged scam involving cards said to be posted through letter boxes by a parcel delivery service advising recipients to call a premium rate number. But PhonepayPlus, the regulator for phone-paid services in the UK, says: "This swindle is no longer running and hasn't since December 2005. The chain email refers to a telephone service on 0906 6611911 shut down by PhonepayPlus in December 2005. PhonepayPlus subsequently fined Studio Telecom, the Belize-based company operating the service, £10,000."

Trading Standards Officer, Sue Hollin advises people receiving the scam warning email not to forward it to others. Instead, she says, they should refer senders to the Phonepayplus statement.

Sue adds: "If you receive a delivery card through your letterbox asking you to dial a premium rate number and you believe it to be bogus, you can contact PhonepayPlus on 0800 500 212 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) for further guidance. Please go to <http://www.phonepayplus.org.uk/output/FAQ.aspx> for useful information about how to recognise phone-paid services and understand what they cost, and some simple tips to help you use services with confidence. For more detailed information about PhonepayPlus, please visit www.phonepayplus.org.uk."