

FRONT DOOR CHECKLIST FOR VISITS

Keep this checklist near your front door | Generated by WOIRA (woira.com)

1. General Rules

- Stay calm, keep the door on the chain, and record audio/video if safe and lawful to do so.
- You are not obliged to open the door fully or let anyone inside unless the law requires it.
- Ask the visitor to state clearly: **who they are, which organisation, and why they are here.**

2. TV Licensing / Civil Enforcement (No Warrant)

- Ask: "Are you here with a court search warrant? Yes or no?"
- If **no warrant**: you do NOT have to let them in. Say:
 - "I do not grant consent to enter my property."
 - "Please leave now. Any further contact must be in writing."
- TV Licensing officers have **no right of entry** without a magistrates' search warrant.
- Close the door if they refuse to leave. Do not argue on the doorstep.

See Communications Act 2003, s.366

3. Police Without a Warrant

- Ask: "Do you have a warrant or other legal power to enter? If so, which power?"
- If they just want to "talk", reply: "I do not consent to entry. If you have questions, please put them in writing."
- Police normally need **consent, a warrant, or specific legal power** (arrest, prevent crime, save life) to enter.
- If they claim emergency power, do not obstruct them but note what they say, with time/date.

See PACE 1984 and Code B

4. Police With a Warrant

- Ask: "Please show the warrant and leave it where I can read it."
- Check:
 - Your address is correct
 - Warrant is signed and dated
 - What offence/purpose it states
 - Any limits (one entry only, time of day)
- If wrong: "I believe this warrant is defective, but I will not obstruct you. I will take legal advice."
- You have a right to a **copy of the warrant**. Ask before they leave.

5. Devices, Computers and Passwords

- A TV-licensing warrant does **NOT** compel you to reveal passwords.
- If asked to unlock a device: | "Under which law are you requiring me to provide a password?"
- Password disclosure is usually by separate **s.49 notice** under RIPA 2000 (serious investigations only).
- Do not lie. Say you wish to take legal advice before answering.

6. After the Visit

- Write down: date/time, names/badge numbers, what was said and done.
- Keep any documents or warrant given to you.
- Seek legal advice if unsure about what happened.

Disclaimer: This checklist is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice. Laws may change. Consult a qualified solicitor if unsure.