



## Schools Beware

### Teaching Resources UK

We have received the following from the Department of Education (formally DCSF). Whilst this is not by any means a 'scam' schools are encouraged to read the small print and terms and conditions of all contracts and trials they enter into.

'This e-mail is to advise you about the activities of a company, Teaching Resources UK, ([www.teaching-resources-uk.com](http://www.teaching-resources-uk.com)) which whilst legal are leading staff to **sign up to two year contacts without them realising it!**

A Sales rep will call, she may have your name and know which curriculum area you come from. She may refer to one of your colleague's by name and say that they have said you are the person to talk to.

She will offer you a free 14 day trial of lesson plans and resources. She will ask for a password from you (she will suggest your date of birth) with which you will be able to access the resources. At no time will she mention that you may have to pay for these resources.

You will then receive an email at the top of which is an invitation to click and view the resources. If you scroll down the page you will then see the terms and conditions under which you are viewing the resources. **However, you may not notice these as they are not obvious when you open the email and you may simply click on the resources and start looking at them.**

**When you open the resources you have potentially signed up to a 2 year contract of up to £1,000.**

This is not a scam because the email does say that you can cancel within the 14 days and gives a date by which this must happen. They also say that they will send you a reminder to cancel before the date. However you may never see this information if you have clicked on the free trial and started to use the resources.

Also these contacts are being made just before the end of term. You may not see the cancellation email until it is too late. Only the teacher who signed up may cancel. It must be done by email.

The small print says 'If you do not cancel your trial, you will be upgraded to full membership and an invoice will be issued to your school. This will be for the membership cost of £249.99 for one subject for one years membership of you selected to trial a single subject, of £499.99 for full access to all subjects for one years membership if you selected 2 or more subjects.'

In the very, very small print of their terms and conditions it also says ' Membership will be for a minimum two year period'.

Devon County Council Trading Standards say that this is not a scam. Devon County Council Auditors have said 'It is apparent from the schools that have been invoiced that teachers have signed up for a trial and not cancelled as required. This might be because of the timeline where the summer break was involved, however, it is apparent that these trials were not properly controlled and that proper purchasing / ordering processes have not been followed'.

**So be careful.** It is easy to be caught out. This has only come to light at the College because of a vigilant colleague who did look at the whole email and was then horrified to find out that a commitment for 2 years could have been made'.

Thanks to the Department of Education for this.

Regards

Commissioning, Procurement and Business Development