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Alec Roy Casselden, 47, of Pitsea, Essex was sentenced on Thursday 24 October after previously pleading guilty to money laundering.

Casselden was handed a six month sentence suspended for two years, 200 hours unpaid work, £750 plus £115 costs and ordered to pay £21,993.61 compensation back to the victims. He pleaded guilty to an offence under Section 328 (1) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 on 19 September at Basildon Crown Court.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Trading Standards were alerted after a Cambridgeshire victim came forward. A financial investigation followed which uncovered a series of rogue trader incidents across Cambridgeshire, Essex and North London with victims being almost £54,000 out of pocket after being approached on their doorsteps with offers of gardening or building work that were unnecessary, incomplete or grossly over-priced.

Casselden allowed his personal bank account to be used to receive the bank transfers made by the many victims. He later withdrew the cash and handed it to unknown males around Essex and London.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Head of Trading Standards Peter Gell said "Through the diligent work of our officers we were able to identify a number of potential victims from this case. The sentencing demonstrates that not only will this activity not be accepted in our county but that we'll pursue the offenders and where we can reclaim compensation for victims – which are often the most vulnerable in our society."

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