

112 - the new Euro emergency number

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By David Paine

A WORCESTER Member of European Parliament has backed a campaign to raise the awareness of an emergency telephone number.

Liberal Democrat Euro MP Liz Lynne has been out promoting 112, the Europe-wide emergency phone number equivalent to 999 in the UK.

The 112 number now works just like 999 in the UK and also in phone networks in 27 EU countries, but studies show most people still do not know about it.

After a meeting in Brussels to promote the number she said: "When emergencies occur the first instinct is to dial 999, but if people are abroad elsewhere in Europe precious seconds or minutes can be wasted while they look up the emergency number for that country.

"Many lives could be saved if people knew they could dial 112.

"We should not replace 999, which is one of the best known numbers anywhere which even very young children understand, but it is very important that we promote 112 as a second universal number to ring anywhere in Europe if lives are in danger."

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