

Kent Fraud Alert System



Courier Fraud

This remains a massive problem and Action Fraud have just reported that £880,000 has been stolen by criminals across the UK in 2 months.

TO STOP FRAUD™

Courier fraud occurs when a fraudster contacts you by telephone purporting to be a police officer or bank official. To substantiate this claim, the caller might be able to confirm some easily obtainable basic details about you such as your full name and address. The caller may also offer a telephone number for you to call or ask you to call the number on the back of your bank card to check that they are genuine. In these circumstances, either the number offered will not be genuine or where a genuine number is suggested, the fraudster will stay on the line and pass you to a different individual. The fraudsters may suggest that,

- Money has been removed from your bank account and staff at their local bank branch are responsible.
- Suspects have already been arrested but the “police” need money for evidence.
- A business such as a jewellers or currency exchange is operating fraudulently and they require assistance from you to help secure evidence.

You may be asked to co-operate in an investigation by attending your bank and withdrawing money, withdrawing foreign currency from an exchange or purchasing an expensive item to hand over to a courier for examination who will also be a fraudster. At the time of handover, you will be promised the money they've handed over or spent will be reimbursed but there is no further contact and your money is gone.

Your bank or the police will never call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN by phone or offer to pick up cash or your card by courier. Hang up if you get a call like this. However, if you are unsure, then ask the caller for their details, then either use another phone or wait five minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line is clear and then ring 101 for the Police or the number on the back of your Bank Card. If you believe that you have been a victim or the incident is occurring now, then ring the Police.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



POLICE - ALERT

Victims lost over
£880k to courier
fraud in two months



ActionFraud
www.actionfraud.police.uk

CLASSIFICATION - SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION

February 2021



**Kent
Police**

Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

www.kent.police.uk



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TO STOP FRAUD™

Royal Mail scams X 2

The first relates to a Text message impersonating Royal Mail which is currently circulating. It has a veiled threat that you if do not click on the link to pay a £2.99 shipping fee, then “action will be taken.” This is a “SCAM.” If you click the link you are taken to a fake website to steal your personal and Banking details which scammers will use to take out loans, credit cards etc. in your name or steal your monies from your accounts. **DO NOT CLICK THIS LINK** and forward to 7726.

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.



FRAUD ALERT- Action Fraud have been notified of 1700 Royal Mail phishing emails in a week. If you receive one of these **do not click on any links**, it is a scam and again the fraudsters are looking to steal your data and monies. Forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

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SCAM WARNING

Over 1,700 Royal Mail scam emails reported in one week

Action Fraud received over 1,700 reports in one week about fake emails purporting to be from Royal Mail. The emails notify the recipients about missed parcel deliveries and provide links to reschedule them. The links in the emails lead to genuine-looking phishing websites that are designed to steal personal and financial information.

- Your bank, or any other official organisation, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you need to check that it's a genuine message, call them directly.
- Received a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - report@phishing.gov.uk



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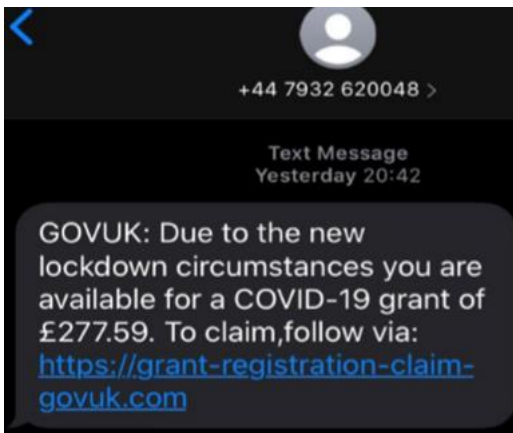
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Covid-19 Grants

Kent Public Protection have received reports of unsolicited text messages targeting Kent residents like the one below



How does the scam work?

- You receive a text message from an unknown number.
- The text will start with 'GOVUK'
- It will claim you are eligible for a COVID-19 grant due to the current lockdown.
- You will be directed to a link to a fraudulent website.

This is a smishing scam and do not click on any links as they want your personal and banking data, to take out loans etc. in your name or steal your monies. Forward the text to 7726.

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

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National Insurance (NI) Scams

Although previously alerted, I wanted to remind everyone that Action Fraud are still seeing a big increase in automated National Insurance scams.

TO STOP FRAUD™

Residents across the UK, including Kent have reported receiving an automated telephone call telling them their “National Insurance number has been compromised” and in order to fix this and get a new number, the victim needs to “press 1 on their handset to be connected to the caller”. It is a scam and once connected to the “caller”, they are pressured into giving over their personal details in order to receive a new National Insurance number but are actually connected to a criminal who can now use their personal details to commit further frauds.

Remember, if you receive one of these calls, then disconnected immediately as HMRC would never contact you this way. With all these types of calls, never press button 1.

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

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POLICE - ALERT

National Insurance scam leads to surge in calls to Action Fraud



ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
www.actionfraud.police.uk

CLASSIFICATION - SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION

January 2021



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Press Release – Re spoofing of Police telephone numbers

We are warning residents to beware of bank card scams where criminals attempt to trick victims by cloning police phone numbers. Those responsible are not actually calling from a police station but change their caller ID to make it appear like they are – a process known as ‘spoofing’.

Over the past three weeks Kent Police has received at least six reports of this nature from residents living in parts of Gravesend and Maidstone. A number of potential victims were contacted by someone claiming to be from Holborn police station, in London. The suspect would claim the victims’ bank card had been used fraudulently and attempt to obtain their account details.

In one instance, a person was contacted by someone claiming to be from South Wales Police. The victim received several calls with phone numbers appearing to match the local force, as well as other agencies including the Home Office and HM Treasury. She was told her identity had been stolen and advised of steps to safeguard her money, which included transferring funds from her account to an alternative account. The victim was warned not to tell anyone and even threatened with arrest if she failed to comply. More than £60,000 is reported to have been stolen in separate transactions.

Detective Sergeant Fiona Dalzell of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: ‘It is important to remember that a police officer will never ask you to pay money over the phone or try and obtain any of your bank details. ‘Never give out your personal information in response to an incoming call or rely upon the caller ID as the sole means of identification – especially if the caller is asking you to do something that will affect you financially. ‘If you receive a suspicious call, hang up the phone and call a trusted number, such as a family member or friend, from a different phone, or wait at least five minutes to ensure the line has cleared. This will ensure you are not still talking to the same fraudster or an accomplice. ‘Contact your bank immediately if you think you may have been scammed and report the incident to Action Fraud.

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

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Royal Mail Email Phishing scam(s)

I have been notified by a few of you about receiving phishing emails impersonating Royal mail about parcel deliveries. Below is the official information around these from the Royal Mail website with advice on how not to fall victim with an example of one the current phishing emails and things to look out for.

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Email subject: Your package could not be delivered on 07/12/2020 (the date will change)

Sender: Royal Mail Group Ltd, various email addresses may be used including press.office@royalmail.com

The email informs you that your package could not be delivered due to no custom duty being paid.

Do not click on any links or enter any details

Dear customer

Your package could not be delivered on 07/12/2020 because no customs duties were paid (J3,89). Follow the instructions

Dispatch Date: 08-12-2020 - 09-12-2020

Reference : 403407882-1599653879

Beneficiaries : Royal Mail Group Ltd

Amount to be paid : J3,89

To confirm the shipment of a package, [click here](#)

We thank you for recording it and wish you continued convenient sending with a waybill online.
Best regards

We have sent this email to [redacted]@dmu.ac.uk

Royal Mail | Royal Mail Group Ltd

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