

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

12 Frauds of Christmas

It is that time of year again when in association with Action Fraud we are supporting their national campaign. Here are the first 2, can you guess what the others will be?

1. Cost of Living Scams.

We are urging you to be on your guard against criminals operating cost of living scams such as falsely offering grants or scam energy texts. Criminals are experts at impersonating people. Stop, think as it could protect you and your money.

The following supplies further advice on these types of scams - [Criminals are using the cost of living crisis to scam the public – don't become a victim](#)
[| Action Fraud](#)

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice: 
@KentPoliceECU



**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 you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.

Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

www.kent.police.uk



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2. Courier Fraud

Courier fraud is when victims receive a phone call from a criminal who is pretending to be a police officer or bank official. They will state there maybe a problem with your Bank card or that they need you to help with an investigation and to withdraw cash. They will state that a courier will collect either your card or cash. They may also state that they are from your bank and that there is a problem and you need to transfer your money to a safe account that they have set up for you. However, all these are scams that are designed to steal your money.

The Police will NEVER call you like this to collect your card or cash. Neither will your Bank request that you transfer your money to a safe account. If you get a call like this, it is a scam.

Remember the ABC of Scam Awareness and Never Assume or Believe a call is genuine and confirm by calling back on a trusted number. Try to avoid using the same phone you were called on, as the criminals may be staying on the line. If another phone is not to hand, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected.

See the following from Action Fraud for further information - [Don't assume a phone call is authentic just because someone knows your name and address | Action Fraud](#)

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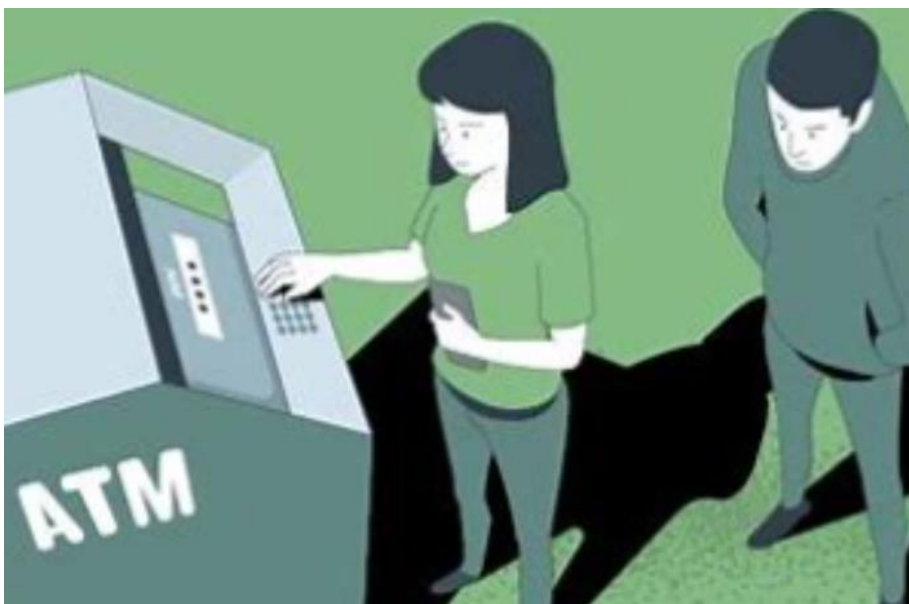
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ATM Scams

We have been made aware of incidents of shoulder surfing at ATM's, in particular in the Gravesend area. The criminals will watch you input your PIN into the ATM and then follow you. Then they will distract you, whilst one of their colleagues steals your card. Please remain vigilant when using an ATM and be aware of those who maybe standing too close behind you. Also remember to shield your hand when typing in your PIN number, even if you are using an ATM inside the branch.

For more information, see the following from Action Fraud - [Avoid being scammed when using an ATM machine | Action Fraud](#)

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.



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Online Shopping

Ready to bag a bargain in the run up to Christmas?

Check out these top tips on how to avoid online shopping scams this Christmas from the National Cyber Security Centre:

[Shopping online securely - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/online-shopping)

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

HM Government

Shop securely online 

this festive season

- ✓ Research sellers, check they're legitimate.
- ✓ Use a credit card or secure payment platform.
- ✓ Only provide enough details to complete your purchase.

[Search Cyber Aware](#)

Cyber Aware  Take your email security to another level

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

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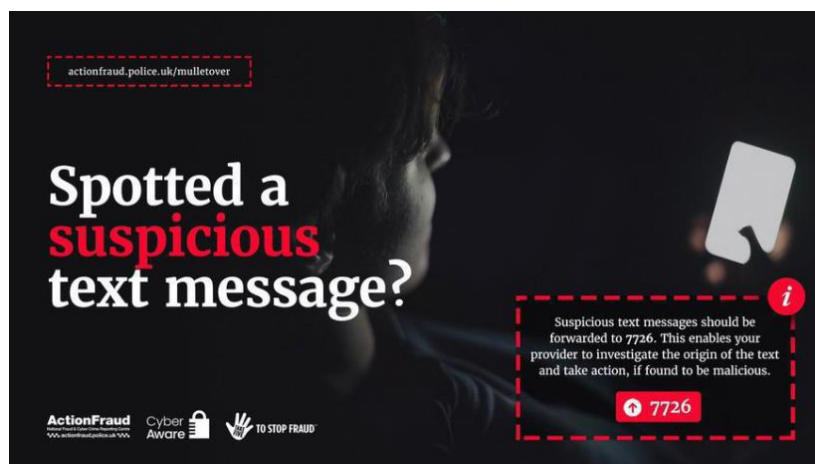


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Finally – Fake Texts and Emails

If you get a suspicious text message or email, possibly asking you to "verify" your personal or financial details, you can report these by forwarding suspicious text messages to 7726 and suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and these will be dealt with by the National Cyber Security Centre.

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