

# Kent Fraud Alert System



## Caller ID's

Do not rely on caller ID to decide if a call is trustworthy. Criminals can copy legitimate phone numbers, to appear like the genuine organisation. The process is called Spoofing and will appear as a genuine number on your telephone.

If you receive a call and it sounds suspicious then hang up and ring back using a trusted number (not a number supplied by them) on a different telephone, as criminals can remain on the line and not disconnect the call. If you do not have a different telephone to hand, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected before making the call.

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](http://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](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)**

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 **[www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://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](http://www.kent.police.uk)**   

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## New HMRC Scam – Beware of cold callers.

Kent Police have received information of Bogus Callers attending properties in the Dartford area impersonating HMRC presenting a fake ID Badge. They are stating you owe money to HMRC and trying to get victims to pay in person or via a telephone number.

If you're concerned about someone calling at your home, don't open your door. Do not engage with anyone impersonating HMRC as they do not conduct home visits.

Any concerns report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report) or talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact).

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## COLD CALLER ALERT!



### TARGETING RESIDENTS IN THE DARTFORD AREA



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## DVLA Fake Email(s)

This week a Kent resident reported receiving the below fake email impersonating DVLA.

DVLA will never email asking you to click on a link a link to update your financial details.

From looking at the email there are some tell, tale signs that it is fake –

- Sent from a non .Gov email address.
- It does not refer to any vehicle details.
- It is not addressed to a person by name, only welcome which tends to suggest it has been sent by someone from outside the UK and to lots of people at the same time.

You can report suspicious emails by forwarding them to - [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

From: TAX/UK77878 <[cerratof@iasda.org](mailto:cerratof@iasda.org)>  
Date: 6 November 2023 at 15:24:09 GMT  
To: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
Subject: Your Vehicle TAX (#UK:51599316096505112074)

Welcome

We have noticed that your vehicle is no longer up to date with its current road tax.

This is the last (v11) reminder we will issue you.

Currently your vehicle is legally not allowed to be on the road.

You must fill out the form below in order to be up to standard with the DVLA legal requirements.

[Click on the link](#)

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## **Officers intercept cash after Tonbridge resident targeted by phone Fraudsters**

Residents are reminded to be on guard against phone fraudsters following a failed attempt to scam a Tonbridge pensioner out of £4,000. Officers intercepted a parcel containing the money, after the victim was tricked into posting cash by someone pretending to be from her bank.

The victim, aged in her late 70s, received a phone call on Thursday 2 November 2023, by a person who claimed to represent Santander. She was told someone had been making fraudulent transactions on her account and that they needed her help to prevent this.

### **Access gained to computer**

The fraudster was able to gain remote access to the victim's computer and manipulated her online account to appear as though money had been deposited. She was then told to withdraw this money and post it to an address, for further investigation. Kent Police was called after the alert was raised by a relative of the victim and following fast track enquiries by officers the £4,000 was recovered from a local post office, before it could be sent for delivery.

An investigation is ongoing to identify the offenders, which is being led by the force's Economic Crime Team.

### **ABC rule to deter criminals**

Detective Constable James Burr said: 'Criminals will go to great lengths to appear genuine, and this can include obtaining personal information which they then disclose to the victim to give an appearance of legitimacy. These are organised criminals who can be very convincing and whose techniques sadly often scam people from all walks of life.

'Even if you do not consider yourself to be vulnerable, it is important to be vigilant. Never give personal information in response to an incoming call, particularly if the caller is asking you to do something that will affect you financially. The police or your bank will never request money from an individual, nor will they ever direct a person to make a transaction on their bank card.

'If you receive such a call, end it immediately. Wait for five minutes for the phone line to clear and contact Action Fraud or the police, if you think you have been scammed. If possible, call from a different number. 'Remember the ABC rule to help protect yourself and others against fraud – never **A**ssume someone is telling the truth, never **B**elieve what they say unless you are confident that they are who they say they are, and always **C**onfirm the details they have provided.'



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## Romance Scams

Looking for love online?

Never send money to or share your bank details with someone you have only met online, no matter what reason they give or how long you have been speaking to them.

This week we have had various reports of Romance scams. One such victim had been speaking to a male for over 5 months. He stated that he was in the military and eventually after a period of time stated he had been shot and desperately needed money to pay expensive hospital bills and to arrange flights back to the UK, however it was all a scam. The criminals rely on pressurising people and taking advantage of their good nature.

The following will take you to advice and information by Action Fraud on Romance Scams, in particular, if you think that you maybe a victim or suspect that someone you know is being targeted: - [Romance scams | 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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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