



KEEP KENT SAFE LATEST ALERTS

Dear Kent Residents

This week Kent Trading Standards along with Kent Police and the National Farmers' Union are working together to urge pet owners to obey the Countryside Code and ensure their dogs are kept under control as lambing season gets under way.

We also want all residents to be aware that romance scams are on the rise and to be especially alert on the lead up to Valentines day. Please continue to warn and inform friends, family and those within your community to help keep Kent safe.

Kind regards

Victim Safeguarding Officer

FOOTBALL BETTING SCAM

Kent resident scammed on football betting site

After winning on the site they were unable to withdraw their funds or their deposit. When they tried to contact the support, no one has responded and resident has lost their deposit money and winnings.

● Recognising a scam website:

- you suspect you're not dealing with a real company – for example, if there's no postal address
- you've been asked to transfer money quickly
- you've been asked to pay in an unusual way – for example, by iTunes vouchers or through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union
- you've been asked to give away personal information like passwords or PINs
- you haven't had written confirmation of what's been agreed

For advice and to report contact Citizens Advice on consumer helpline 0808 223 1133 or [visit their website](#)

'PIG BUTCHERING' ROMANCE SCAM

Residents to be aware of 'pig butchering' romance scams as valentines day approaches



'Pig butchering' scams have been given their name by fraudsters because they 'fatten up' the victim by forming a romantic connection before executing the investment part of the scam. The scammer and victim typically meet on a dating site and the victim is 'love-bombed' over a period of weeks by someone who appears to take a great interest in their life. The scammer will often encourage their victim to move from the dating platform to a private messaging service, thus removing them from any protections the dating site might offer.

When the victim is sufficiently groomed, the scammer claims they have been having success investing – typically in property or cryptocurrency – and they offer to invest some of the victim's money. If the victim consents, they are sometimes shown a crypto trading platform controlled by the scammers, and encouraged to sign up and begin depositing funds. One UK victim, a former Somerset police officer, lost £107k to such a scam, believing she was investing in retirement apartments in Cyprus.



This is a scam.

To avoid the scam, look out for signs of 'love-bombing', attempts to move onto a private messaging platform, reluctance to meet in person and requests for money or a concerted effort to get the person to 'invest'. For those in an online relationship, it is worth checking in with a friend or a member of your family on how it is going, sometimes other people can help to spot warning signs and inconsistencies when we are too caught up in the moment.

For advice and to report contact Citizens Advice on consumer helpline 0808 223 1133.

Romance scams are on the rise. Sophie Day joins Kent County Council from Kent Police to talk about how to avoid fraudsters using romance scams to target people in Kent during the cost of living crisis in 2023.



[Watch here](#)

Romance scams in the UK are becoming more prevalent due to technology. In this newscast we expose the key traits of a scammer and how to avoid falling victim on online dating apps.

SPEAK UP. STAY SAFE

If you think you may be a target of a romance scammer, call Kent Police on 101. If you are worried about someone else contact Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133 for advice.



Dog owners in Kent are being urged to keep control of their pets in the countryside following a rise in attacks on sheep.

The National Farmers Union, [Kent Police](#) and Kent Trading Standards are working together to encourage pet owners to obey the Countryside Code and ensure their dogs are kept under control as lambing season gets under way.

[Read more](#)

Product Safety Matters

A recent survey found 87% of unsafe products were found to be available for sale. [Watch our six videos from experts](#) to help purchase safe products.

Please show these videos to elderly or vulnerable family and friends who may not have internet access.

We can't take action without your reports.

We need everyone who comes across fake, illegal or unsafe goods to speak up and report them. Your reporting can help us target our resources to warn and protect others.

Report to the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 you'll stay 100% anonymous, always.

To get advice call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133

To report scams and get advice on consumer issues call Citizen's Advice consumer helpline on **0808 223 1133**.

If you have information on doorstep criminals, counterfeit, fake or illegal goods, illicit tobacco, loan sharks or those selling restricted items to underage kids, call the charity Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on **0800 555 111**



Trading Standards Checked carries out checks on traders so customers can have peace of mind when choosing a tradesperson to do work in their home.

Please help to keep your family and community safe. If you need work done in your home or garden, visit the website to find a safe local tradesperson.

Visit Trading Standards Checked

<https://kent.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ce2871176f2cf0da723a750b1&id=69746bb622&e=c8b166df01>