

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Courier Fraud – Urgent Alert

This week we have seen numerous Courier Frauds in Gravesend, Herne Bay, Romney Marsh, Maidstone, Chatham, Cuxton, Rochester, Deal, Sittingbourne and Folkestone.

Two reports involved the victims being contacted by fraudsters impersonating their banks and being told that criminals were trying to access their accounts and that they needed to withdraw and send their money by same day registered post to safe addresses, where it would be deposited into a new account.

Another report involved the victims being requested by criminals impersonating their bank to transfer their money to safe accounts, due to criminals trying to steal their cash.

A separate report involved a victim receiving numerous calls from the fraudsters impersonating their bank who eventually persuaded the victim to send their bank card via taxi to an address in exchange for a new card.



Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU

All these incidents were scams.

If you are ever asked to withdraw cash by the police or your bank or to handover your bank cards or assist with an investigation by buying and handing over valuable items, in particular, Gold – **STOP IT'S A SCAM**. The Police or your Bank will never ask you to do this.

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.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)



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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Illegal streaming

Illegally streaming Sky Premium content is not really a problem, is it? After all Sky earn enough, don't they?

Well, it is a crime and it also has wider ramifications.

Illegal streaming services that supply entertainment and sports content via modified boxes, firesticks and subscriptions, help fund wider organised crime such as human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, drug supply and other sinister crimes. There are other risks associated with illegal streaming, including fraud, scams, exposure to inappropriate content, viruses and malware.

If you have an offer of cheap streaming, then it is likely to be illegal and possibly funding serious crime.



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Rogue Traders – Folkestone

We have seen several reports of Rogue Traders operating across the county but in particular the Folkestone area.

Beware of cold callers offering to clean driveways for extortionate amounts of money. Additionally, people offering to carry out unnecessary roofing work.

These types of offences are not isolated to any individual locations and are taking place across the county.

Remember –

- Always obtain at least 3 written quotes and never agree to work on your doorstep, no matter how tempting the offer.
- Ask family and friends for recommendations.
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand.
- Never pay in full until you are completely satisfied with the work.

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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Investment Frauds

There are many different types of investment fraud. They usually involve criminals contacting people out of the blue and convincing them to invest in schemes or products that are worthless or do not exist. Once the criminals have received payment, they cease contact with the victim.

The majority of investment frauds are run out of offices known as **boiler rooms**. Some of the most popular scams involve shares and Fine Wines.

- **How to protect yourself from Financial Investment fraud:**

Investment opportunities: Don't be rushed into making an investment. Remember, legitimate organisations will never pressure you into investing on the spot.

- **Seek advice first:** Before making significant financial decisions, speak with trusted friends or family members, or seek professional independent advice.

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FCA register: Use the [Financial Services Register | FCA](#) to check if the company is regulated by the FCA. If you deal with a firm (or individual) that isn't regulated, you may not be covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) if things go wrong and you lose your money.

For more information about how to invest safely, please visit: [ScamSmart - Avoid investment and pension scams | FCA](#)



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To find out more about fraud, visit our website at - [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)

ActionFraud
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Community Events

This week, fraud and cyber protect officers were working together with bank staff at Barclays Bank in Tunbridge Wells and were speaking to customers, offering advice on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud. This is one of many events that the team attend around the county.

On this occasion they were raising awareness around how to have a safe password and the threat of Rogue Traders.

If you belong to a group that would benefit from a presentation, then please email us at – KFAS@ecis.police.uk



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