

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

FIFA World Cup Lottery Scam

I have been made aware of reports from colleagues in Hampshire of their residents receiving letters claiming they have won a FIFA World Cup Lottery. These are fraudulent scams.

Although, this is Hampshire, we may well see similar scams in Kent.

Do not respond to any communication (letter, phone call, text, or message) about a FIFA World Cup Lottery or similar schemes.

Warning Signs of the Scam -

- You are told you have won a lottery you never entered
- Requests for fees or bank details to release a “prize”
- Pressure to act quickly or keep the win confidential
- References to locations such as Switzerland or London that are fake or misused
- Letters are highly personalised (your name printed throughout, fake certificates/cheques)
- Use of official-looking logos, seals, and financial-style language
- Claims of “guaranteed” or “100% genuine” winnings with exact amounts
- Signed by supposed officials with senior titles

What to do -

- Ignore and do not engage
- Do not share personal or financial information
- For genuine FIFA-related products or promotions, only use official sources - [FIFA | The Home of Football](#)

If you have been a victim of any type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and reporting to Report Fraud at [Reporting cyber crime and fraud or phishing attempts - Report Fraud](#) or call 0300 123 2040.

Find out more by visiting our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#) and also from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)

AWARD NOTIFICATION

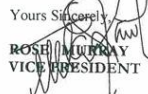
Dear Ms Julie,

We are delighted to inform you of the International FIFA World Cup Lottery Program held on 17/04/2026. Due to mix up of names and numbers the results were released on 28/04/2026. Your name attached to ticket number:038/76 with serial number: 084 drew lucky numbers: 13-21-27-36-38-45 with bonus ball 4 which consequently won in the 4th category, you have therefore been approved the winner for a lump sum pay out of Nine Hundred Thousand Pounds (£900,000.00) congratulations! Note: This is a tax-free draw and all participants were selected through a computer ballot system drawn from Over 390,000,000, individuals worldwide.

The program was designed and promoted by European lottery, Loteria, El Gordo and Commonwealth Bank of Australia. To promote the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games that is to be hosted by the United States of America and the Canada/USA/Mexico 2026 FIFA World Cup. This has been the biggest ever played in the world which aimed at changing the lives of millions of people. Please to help us proceed with your claims, this information must be kept away from public to avoid unwarranted abuse of the program or fraudulent acts from criminal minded and unauthorized person(s).

To begin your claims, contact Mr Bernard Morgan, the Foreign Service Manager of STANDARD CHARTERED FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS ON Tel: 020-7043-8728. Direct Line: 073-5143-7226. ADDRESS: 22 HANNOVER SQUARE LONDON W1S 1HD UNITED KINGDOM, for the processing and remittance of your Winnings Remember to quote your reference number in all correspondence.

Finally, all winnings must be claimed not later than 30/05/2026. After this date, the entire Fund will be returned to the INT'L BOARD OF INTERNAL REVENUE as unclaimed. Furthermore, should there be any change of your personal details or address, do inform your claims agent as soon as Possible CONGRATULATION ONCE AGAIN!!!

Yours Sincerely,

ROSE MURRAY
VICE PRESIDENT

POSTCODE ONLINE LOTTO
Date:28/04/2026
LONDON ENGLAND

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm



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Fake Nationwide Direct Debit Scam

I have received a report of Fraudsters sending fake emails and messages impersonating Nationwide, claiming a large Direct Debit has been set up and urging you to call a number if it was not you.

However, it is a scam and the number connects directly to scammers.

What the scammers want -

- Primary aim: trick you into moving your money to a “safe account”
- Secondary aim: obtain banking details or security codes to access your account

Do Not -

- Call the number in the message
- Share personal or banking information
- Transfer money at someone else’s instruction

Stay Safe:

- Contact your bank by calling 159
- Stop and verify any unexpected payment alerts

Remember: Your bank will never ask you to move money to keep it safe.

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Increase in Phishing Emails

There has been a recent rise in phishing emails impersonating trusted organisations such as banks, DVLA, telecom providers (e.g. BT/EE), and delivery companies.

These messages often claim there is an issue requiring urgent action, such as a new Direct Debit, account problem, missed delivery fee or eligibility for a discount or upgrade. They typically encourage you to click a link or respond quickly but these links lead to convincing fake websites designed to steal login details, personal information, and payment data or to prompt unauthorised payments.

These emails can appear highly realistic, often using official logos, branding and professional language, making them difficult to identify.

Do not click on links, download attachments, or share any personal or financial information in response to unexpected messages.

Remember:

- Never assume a message or call is genuine.
- Never believe that it is genuine.
- Always confirm by calling a trusted number and not one supplied in the message or call.

You can report a suspicious email by forwarding to – report@phishing.gov.uk

You can report suspicious texts by forwarding to 7726.



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Fake Online Shops Using Real UK Addresses

Be careful when shopping online. Some scam websites use real UK home addresses and phone numbers to appear legitimate.

How the scam works:

- You buy an item online that looks genuine.
- The item is inferior quality, fake, or never arrives.
- When you try to return it, you are told to send it to a “UK returns address.”
- That address actually belongs to an innocent member of the public, not the company.
- Victims may also flood these unrelated people with calls and parcels.



What criminals are doing:

- Stealing real people’s contact details to make fake websites look trustworthy.
- Collecting your money and personal data.

Spot the warning signs:

- Prices too good to be true
- Pressure to buy quickly (closing down sales, limited stock)
- Poor or copied product images
- Suspicious or unverified reviews
- Unknown websites with little online presence

Protect yourself:

- Search the company name + “scam” before buying
- Check reviews on independent sites (not links on the seller’s page)
- Use a credit card where possible for better protection
- Be cautious, if something does not feel right and trust your instincts

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Fraud Alert – Counterfeit Cash in Social Media Sales

There has been an increase in counterfeit cash being used to purchase high-value items advertised on social media (e.g. Facebook Marketplace).

How it works:

- Offenders target online sellers of high value goods
- Pay in cash to avoid traceability
- Victims often only discover the notes are fake at the bank

How to Identify Counterfeit Notes

Check notes before handing over goods:

- Feel: Genuine polymer notes feel firm with slightly raised print
- Look: Check for clear windows, sharp detail, and holograms that change text/value
- Tilt: Holograms and foil patches should move and change colour
- Check quality: Fake notes often look dull, blurry, or poorly printed

Prevention Advice

- Meet in safe locations (e.g. bank branch can check the notes at the same time)
- Check all notes carefully before completing the sale
- Be cautious of buyers who rush transactions

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URGENT ALERT for online shoppers after spike in criminals gaining unauthorised access to retailer accounts

Report Fraud is urging online shoppers to stay alert for unusual activity on their accounts following a rise in criminals gaining access to buy expensive goods.

Recent reporting highlights Argos as a key trend in this activity. Report Fraud has seen a significant increase in cases mentioning the retailer, reflecting how criminals are targeting well-known brands. Argos is actively working with authorities and its customers to identify suspicious activity and strengthen safeguards. Criminals are using login details obtained from data breaches to gain unauthorised access to retailer accounts. This is possible due to the practice of reusing the same password across multiple online accounts. Once they have control of the account, criminals will place online orders and then collect the good in-person at a physical store. In some instances, the goods are paid for using payment details not connected to the victim of the compromised account. These fraudulent orders are frequently fulfilled through 'click and collect,' allowing offenders to retrieve goods in person.

In May, Report Fraud received 652 reports which mention Argos, a 323 per cent increase compared to April, when 154 reports mentioning the retailer were made. Since the start of 2026, there have been 1,175 reports mentioning the retailer, with May seeing the highest number to date. Argos has been contacting customers who may have been affected and continues to work closely with partners and shoppers to help protect accounts and prevent further incidents.

How can you protect yourself?

- **Reset passwords:** if you noticed any unauthorised activity on an online account, you should change your password immediately. You should also do this for any accounts that use the same password. A good way to make sure your passwords are secure and strong is to combine 3 random words to create a unique password. You should opt for a passkey if you can.
- **Enable 2SV:** whenever available, protect your online accounts by enabling 2-step verification (2SV).
- **Shopping online:** if you decide to create an account for the store you are buying from, do not allow them to store your bank details for future purchases.

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