

Kent Fraud Alert System



Courier Fraud ALERT!!! – Please share this is important

In the last 3 weeks we have had in excess of 50 reports of Courier Fraud across Kent.

Courier fraud occurs when a criminal contacts a victim by telephone purporting to be a police officer or bank official. To substantiate this claim, the caller might be able to confirm some easily obtainable basic details about the victim such as their full name and address.

The criminal may also offer a telephone number for the victim to telephone or ask the victim to call the number on the back of their bank card to check that they are genuine or to not disconnect the call and ring 999. In these circumstances, either the number offered will not be genuine or, where a genuine number is suggested, the criminal will stay on the line and pass the victim to a different individual.

After some trust has been established, the fraudster will then, for example, suggest,

- Some money has been removed from a victim's bank account and staff at their local bank branch are responsible.
- Suspects have already been arrested but the "police" need money for evidence.
- A business such as a jewellers or currency exchange is operating fraudulently and they require assistance to help secure evidence.
- An offender has been arrested with the victim's bank card.

Victims are then asked to co-operate in an investigation by attending their bank and withdrawing money, withdrawing foreign currency from an exchange or purchasing an expensive item to hand over to a courier for examination who will also be a fraudster.

At the time of handover, unsuspecting victims are promised the money they've handed over or spent will be reimbursed but there is no further contact and the money is never seen again.

THE POLICE WILL NEVER CONTACT YOU ASKING YOU TO WITHDRAW MONEY FROM YOUR BANK OR PURCHASE HIGH VALUE ITEMS FOR THEM TO COLLECT. NEITHER WILL THEY ASK TO COLLECT YOU BAN CARD(S).

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.



**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   

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Offender made to repay almost £60,000 to fraud victims.

A criminal who acted as a treasurer for organised fraudsters has been ordered to pay almost £60,000 in compensation to victims. Luke Barling, 50, from Sittingbourne, was jailed for two years and nine months in June 2023 after accepting multiple payments from mostly elderly and retired people. The victims had been scammed in a variety of ways including insurance fraud, unnecessary building work and a scheme relating to the sale of diamonds. Others thought they were making investments in saving accounts with attractive interest rates, unaware they were being tricked by offenders using clones of legitimate companies. Some were unaware they had been defrauded until they were contacted by police. Detectives from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate established that whilst there was no evidence Barling had been involved in the frauds themselves, he had been accepting and spending large amounts of cash paid into two bank accounts opened between February and June 2020. Large sums were also transferred to a number of unknown recipients.

Money laundering

He was arrested and later pleaded guilty to three counts of money laundering. The investigation into Barling's finances continued following his sentencing and specialist staff from Kent Police's Proceeds of Crime Team made a successful application to Maidstone Crown Court to compensate seven victims a total of £58,095. A further nine victims had already received their money back from their banks or following applications to the Financial Ombudsman Service. An additional £36,172 was confiscated from Barling and will be distributed to operational agencies including Kent Police under the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme.

Highly skilled

Detective Inspector David Godfrey of the Proceeds of Crime Team said, "Whilst a number of victims were able to recover the money they paid to the criminals who defrauded them, there were several others who felt they would be permanently deprived of the savings they were entitled to enjoy in their later lives. I am therefore very pleased that thanks to the work of our highly skilled financial investigators we were able to compensate everyone else affected. Whilst there is nothing to suggest Luke Barling targeted the victims in this case himself, he still clearly played a key role in the criminal operation and is quite rightly being held to account.'



**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   

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Fake email impersonating DeWalt offering free Products.

Action fraud have received over 3,500 reports about this scam email.

The email claims to be offering various free products and asks you to click on a link in order to access your free item. However, it is all a scam and the link will take you to a realistic looking website, where the criminals will steal your personal and financial data.

Always report suspicious emails by forwarding them to:

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 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

DeWalt giveaway scams

Action Fraud has received 3,568 reports about scam emails impersonating home improvement brands, such as Homebase. The emails claim to be giving away various DeWalt products, such as drills and backpacks. The links in the emails lead to malicious websites designed to steal personal and financial information.

HOW TO DEAL WITH SUSPICIOUS MESSAGES

If you have doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. **Don't** use the numbers or address in the message - use the details from their official website. Your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email.

Spotted a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - report@phishing.gov.uk



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   

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Car Selling Scams on Social Media

Just recently I have seen an increase in reports of people being scammed when buying vehicles online. Typically, these scams involve criminals posting non-existent vehicles or vehicle parts on social media. Scammers will use stolen images of genuine vehicles and sometimes even feature a fake address. The victim then sends the criminals money in anticipation that the vehicle will be delivered. However, it never is and when the victim attempts to contact the seller, they discover the ad and the seller have disappeared.

To avoid falling for these scams, use our top tips when browsing online for a new car:

- Be wary of a bargain, as this is common tactic scammers use to lure you in.
- Be especially careful when using an online marketplace.
- Check documents – ask to see the seller's vehicle logbook (V5C). This is needed when a vehicle is sold, so legitimate sellers should have it.
- Ask for the registration number and check that the details match up on the DVLA's vehicle enquiry service.
- Look out for pressure-selling tactics, such as telling you that a lot of other people are interested in the vehicle, or you only have a limited time to buy it.
- Don't pay for anything until you've inspected the vehicle. During your inspection, check that the documents and vehicle details all match up.
- Don't pay via bank transfer, as it offers little protection. Instead use a platform such as PayPal or a credit card for additional protection if things go wrong.

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   

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

WhatsApp Scams

Our colleagues in the Banks have recently stated that they are seeing a re-emergence of the “scam of mum and dad,” when criminals will contact a family member stating that they have lost or damaged their phone and advise that they have a new number. They will then ask for financial assistance and request that money is paid into a friend’s bank account, to pay an urgent bill, as due to them having to change their mobile number they cannot access their online banking etc. Of course, it is all a scam. If you get a message like this requesting money, always apply ABC and do not Assume or Believe it is genuine but Confirm by ringing on the existing number that you have for them, as you will find that they know nothing about it.

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



Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

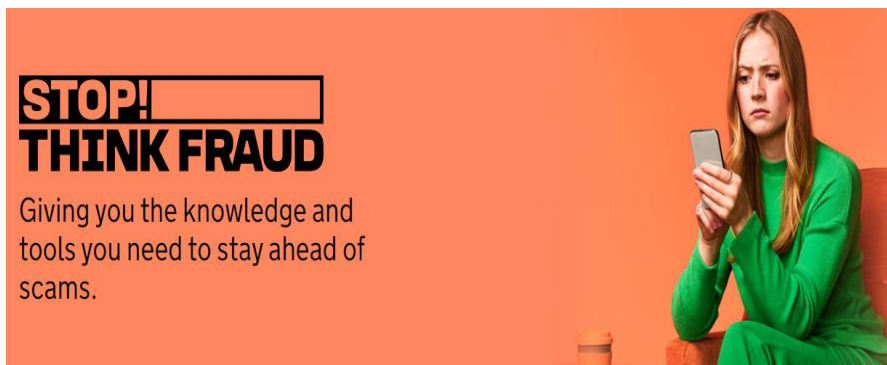
Home Office web site – Stop, Think Fraud

If you have not done so yet, I would recommend visiting the new Home Office web site, Stop, Think fraud - [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams \(stophinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk\)](https://stophinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk)

It offers advice on various things including how to spot fraud, how to protect yourself against fraud and recovering your losses.

Remember if you need to contact your Bank, call 159. If you want to report a suspicious email, then forward to report@phishing.gov.uk or if you want to report a fake text message, then forward to 7726.

You can report a fraud to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.



STOP!
THINK FRAUD

Giving you the knowledge and tools you need to stay ahead of scams.

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   