

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Cryptocurrency Scam

Last month I issued an alert to Kent residents to be to be vigilant against cryptocurrency fraud attempts following reports from nine victims at that time. Reports of this scam are still being received.

The victims had a combined loss of over £1 million after their personal information was shared online following a data leak.

Personal details were taken from the data leak and used to generate fake Action Fraud reports.



Fake calls

Once these reports were created the victims were then contacted by someone claiming to be a police officer reassuring them that an investigation had been launched. The officer then told them to expect a call from the crypto wallet host. A second call was then received from someone claiming to be a security officer asking the victim for their seed phrase which is a 12 or 24-word phrase which allows users to control a cryptocurrency wallet.

With that information the fraudsters were able to rebuild the wallet, steal the funds and transfer them so that they cannot be recovered.

Keep Alert

Detective Sergeant Darryll Paulson says: 'I urge anyone contacted by someone claiming to be from a crypto host or from the police, not to give out any personal details. 'Scammers are becoming increasingly more calculating in their methods to defraud their victims into losing a substantial amount of money and will often create urgency in the situation, such as telling them they need to act now to stop their funds from being stolen. 'Don't be embarrassed about reporting a scam, it only takes a second to be distracted and fall victim.'

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](http://www.kent.police.uk/advice-about-fraud)

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](http://www.stopthinkfraud.gov.uk)

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm



**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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Investment scams

Social media platforms featured in 36% of all investment fraud reports received last year across the UK. Have you been contacted unexpectedly on social media with a lucrative investment opportunity? It could be investment fraud.

Social media platforms that are particularly favoured by criminals are WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram.

Criminals frequently impersonated well known public figures, such as Martin Lewis, Elon Musk and Jeremy Clarkson, to try to build credibility and will take advantage of AI technology using deep fake to impersonate celebrities.

This week, City of London police reported that over £624m was lost nationally to these types of scams. To find out more and obtain advice on how to avoid becoming a victim, please go to the -

[City of London Police: over £649m lost to investment fraud in 2024, with cryptocurrency fraud on the rise | City of London Police](#)

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HAVE YOU BEEN CONTACTED OUT OF THE BLUE AND GUARANTEED PROFIT ON AN INVESTMENT?

In 36 per cent of investment fraud reports, social media platforms was recorded as being a key enabler.

If you have been contacted out of the blue via social media with a lucrative investment opportunity - stop, block, and report.



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