

# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## Employment Scams linked to TikTok

In the past week, we have seen employment scams linked to Tik Tok.

Often originating on social media and disguised as remote work or content roles, these fraudulent schemes disproportionately target young job seekers, with many cases seen by the bank involving those aged 18 to 34.

Scammers entice victims with fake job offers involving simple online tasks, such as liking TikTok videos or reviewing hotels, promising lucrative commissions and high returns from the comfort of their own homes.

However, upfront fees known as 'advanced fees' are demanded for purported necessities like application processing, training, background checks or visa sponsorship.

Once payments are made, perpetrators typically cease communication, leaving victims blocked.

Some scams involve crypto wallets or platforms for task completion and some victims are even manipulated into forwarding money or acting as intermediaries, unwittingly laundering money, known as money muling. Money mules can find themselves at risk of a criminal record.

Here are some tips from Lloyds Banks on avoiding job scams -

1. Be cautious of unsolicited adverts or job offers promising easy money, especially on social media, which is a key "hunting ground" for fraudsters. If you spot one, report it to Action Fraud.
2. Remember legitimate companies will not ask you to make payments when applying for a job, nor would they ask you use your own bank account to transfer their money. Do not do it under any circumstances.
3. Verify recruiters and companies independently, conduct your own research and do not rely on links and documents they provide.
4. Avoid opportunities where you are added to unknown apps or group chats that claim to be part of the process.

If you think that you may have been a victim of any 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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#) and you will also find valuable information from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)



**Kent  
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

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In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

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## Courier Fraud

In the past few weeks, we have seen an increase of reports from victims in relation to Courier Fraud. One victim lost £77,000 and another £16,000.

Residents have been getting phone calls from criminals mostly impersonating Police Officers and some claiming to be from their bank.

- One resident was told to “dial the long number on their card without clearing the line” and spoke to who they thought was their bank.
- Another was told their bank card had been used at Sainsbury's and to call 999 but without clearing their line.
- A few were told their bank cards had been copied/cloned.
- One was told by their bank to "withdraw money to get a new card."
- Another was told to stop using his bank card and go to the bank to withdraw the money for them to collect to help with an investigation.
- The Police will NEVER ask you for financial details on the phone or request to collect your card or cash or gold as part of an investigation. Remember the ABC of Scam Awareness and Never Assume or Believe a call is genuine and always Confirm.

## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



## Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

If you get an expected call from someone claiming to be Police or any other organisation, then take their details and end the call. Then call back using a different phone if available. If another phone is not available, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected and then ring 101. Never call a number they have supplied and never ring 999 whilst still on the call with them. You must always disconnect the call first before ringing 101.



If you think that you may have been a victim of any 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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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## Facebook Hacks

A resident in West Malling was targeted by a Facebook hacked account scam.

A Facebook friend had their account hacked and the hacker contacted their friends, sending them emergency messages saying they were in distress and needed money urgently.

This was a SCAM.

If you receive any requests for financial assistance from accounts such as Facebook, WhatsApp etc. Never Assume or Believe the request is genuine but Confirm by contact the person requesting assistance via a trusted number.

If you think that you may have been a victim of any 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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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## Fake Parking Fine messages

Whilst attending events, people have been stating that they are still receiving fake messages for parking fines and so I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to be alert to these types of scam.

### What Do These Parking Fine Scam Texts Look Like?



Scam texts may claim you have received a **Parking Charge Notice (PCN)** or **Penalty Charge** for a parking offence. They will often:

- Include **urgent language**, e.g. “Final warning!” or “Your credit score will be affected.”
- Contain a **link** to a fake payment page.
- Pretend to come from an official source, like your local council or DVLA (they do not send fines by text).
- Use company names that sound legitimate.

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### What to Do if You Receive a Scam Message:

- Do not click any links.
- Do not rely to the message.
- Do not share personal or payment details.

If you are genuinely unsure whether a fine is real, contact the council or company direct using details on their official website – Never the contact information in the message.

If you think that you may have been a victim of any 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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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## Winter Heating Scam Texts

We are still receiving reports of the below text message stating that you are eligible to claim for your winter heating allowance, however, it is a SCAM.

The text asks you to click on a link that will direct you to a realistic website under the control of the criminals, where they will look to steal your personal and financial data.

You can report scam text messages by forwarding to 7726.

If you think that you may have been a victim of any 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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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DWP Official Reminder:  
According to DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) records, you have not yet submitted your application for the 2024-2025 Winter Heating Allowance. To ensure you receive your £300 payment, please complete your application no later than 28 June 2025. Failure to submit your application by the deadline will result in your ineligibility to receive this allowance. Please act promptly and complete your application via the link below:

<https://gov.uk-subsidyk.icu/uk>

(Please reply Y, then exit the SMS and open it again to activate the link, or copy the link to your Safari browser and open it)



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