

# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## Fake Delivery Text Messages

Fraudsters are sending fake text messages from delivery companies, saying they need more details or asking you to click a link to reschedule a delivery.

The messages are copying the company's logos and basic information to make you think they are real.

They will also often ask you to pay a small fee and direct you to click on a link to make the payment. However, it's a scam to obtain your payment card and personal information.

Do not click on any link from an unknown sender. Check the number or URL address and if you are expecting a package go to the company site directly to track your parcel.

Forward suspicious text messages to 7726 (SPAM).

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](http://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

Text Message  
Today 1:41 PM

You've missed our delivery, for the redelivery of your parcel please visit: <https://myparcel-ups.com> and confirm the settlement of (1.45).



**Kent  
Police**

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

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://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](http://www.kent.police.uk)



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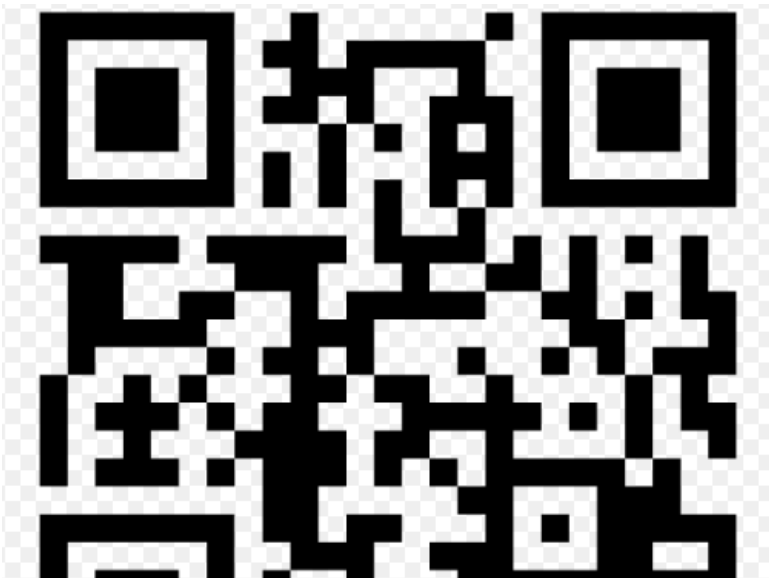
## QR Codes

Recently, there have been reports around the country of scammers placing fake QR codes on parking meters, which lead unsuspecting drivers to unauthorised payment sites where they are prompted to input their personal and financial information.

Follow these top tips to avoid falling victim to these scams...

- **Verify QR codes:** Before scanning any QR code for parking payment, look for any signs of tampering or irregularities, such as scratches or tear marks on the QR code.
- **Use official payment methods:** Stick to using official payment methods and avoid making payments through unfamiliar QR codes or websites.
- **Stay Vigilant:** Be on the lookout for any suspicious behaviour around parking meters, such as individuals tampering with them or loitering nearby.

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## Good News Story

A criminal who conspired to launder money from victims of fraud has been jailed for five years. Detectives from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate launched an investigation after receiving reports that trade customers had been tricked into paying money into the wrong bank accounts.



Mayowa Christopher, 30, was a member of an organised group with links to Thanet that gained access to people's finances by pretending to work for their bank or legitimate businesses they owed money to.

Through chat messages exchanged with an associate, officers were able to link Christopher to several offences including one in July 2019 in which a woman received a call from someone claiming to work for her bank. They gained her trust by demonstrating knowledge of her direct debits and standing orders, and even sent convincing emails containing supposed one-time passwords. This led to £4,200 being stolen from her account, with Christopher sending a text to his associate shortly beforehand instructing him to 'hurry up' as she was calling her bank back. He was also linked to two other victims who lost a total of £7,369, with photos and videos of Christopher's computer being used to log into their bank accounts being shared with his associate. He was sent in return images of bank cards that were being used to launder the money. Christopher, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to conspiring to acquire criminal property and was sentenced at Southwark Crown Court on Tuesday 26 March 2024. He received 16 months' imprisonment for the Kent offences and a further three years and eight months for several other cases investigated by City of London Police.

### Step ahead

Detective Sergeant Adam Stallard of Kent Police's Serious Economic Crime Unit said:

'Criminals like Mayowa Christopher and his associates use a range of sophisticated measures to gain access to people's savings and care little for the distress they cause along the way.' However, as this case demonstrates we are always a step ahead and have our own means of tracking down those responsible for fraudulent activity and ensuring they are brought to justice. Christopher is now deservedly behind bars where he will no longer pose a financial risk to innocent members of the public.' There are lots of things we can all do to protect our personal data and savings from such offenders, including having strong passwords and being careful not to open attachments or click on links unless you are absolutely certain it is safe to do so.' Do not believe anyone who calls you out of the blue, claiming to be from your bank or the police – no matter how convincing they sound or if they appear to be in possession of information that only your bank or another official body could have. Instead take their details, hang up and dial the organisation concerned using a different phone, or ring a friend first to ensure the line has been cleared.'



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## Impersonation Scam

Fraud Alert - KCC have reported that Kent residents have been receiving calls from criminals impersonating KCC and Lifeline services attempting to get users to provide bank details for a digital update or risk having their service terminated.

This is a scam. If you get a call like this, then please hang up immediately.

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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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# ALERT



# LIFELINE UPGRADE SCAM



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## Rogue Traders/Doorstep Criminals

Last week we received reports of cold callers targeting residents in the following areas, West Kingsdown, Maidstone and Sittingbourne.

Remember –

- Do not open your door if you do not know the caller.
- Do not believe that they are there to help you or that work needs to be completed.
- Do not allow them to work on your property without your permission.
- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine.
- Get three written quotes.
- Ask family and friends for recommendations.
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand, and never pay in full until you're completely satisfied with the work.

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## Fake Parking Ticket Scam – Tunbridge Wells

We have recently received reports of residents in Tunbridge Wells having fake parking tickets placed on their vehicles. Thankfully the residents realised it was a scam as there were no parking restrictions in the area where they received these.

Please be alert to this and if unsure if something is genuine, always apply ABC and confirm before making any payment.



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