

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Cost of Living Scam – Fake text Message

This week we had a report from a member of the public who had received a text message from criminals impersonating the Home Office, with regards to Winter Fuel payments. They were asked to click on a link to be directed to a website, where they could update their bank details to receive their benefit. The intended victim realised it was a scam and contacted the Police.

The link in the text would have taken the intended victim to a website under the control of the criminals where they would have stolen their 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 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](#)



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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Rogue Traders

We have seen several reports of Rogue Traders operating across the county, particularly the Thanet area.

Please be wary of cold callers offering to undertake work on your property as this work may not be necessary or may not be completed to a satisfactory standard and you may be overcharged and out of pocket.

If seeking a tradesperson to undertake some work on your property, please remember to always:

- Obtain at least three written quotes.
- Ask family and friends for recommendations.
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand.
- Never pay in full until you are completely satisfied with the work.

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DOORSTEP CRIME ALERT!

SEE IT - REPORT IT



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Starbucks Fake Email Scam

Action Fraud have recently received over 900 reports about a fake email offering free Starbucks coffee gift sets and all you needed to do was click on a link within the email.

However, clicking the link would only take you to a realistic looking website under the control of the criminals, where they would look to steal you personal and financial data.

Remember our ABC message of fraud awareness and Never Assume or Believe a message etc. is genuine but always Confirm. So, if unsure, then contact the company using a trusted number, not one supplied within an email or text message.

If you get an email like this or any other suspicious looking emails, you can report these by forwarding 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.

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Starbucks fake emails

Action Fraud has received 916 reports in the last two weeks about phishing emails offering Starbucks Coffee Lovers Box. These emails state that the recipient can claim a free coffee bundle. The links in the email are designed to steal your personal and financial information or download malware onto your personal device.

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

Starbucks fake email screenshot:

From: Starbucks <starbucks@starbucks.com>
Subject: You have won a brand new Starbucks Coffee Lovers Box !!!
Date: 1 October 2024 at 16:50:12 GMT

SCAM

Congratulations!

You are a Winner of a Starbucks Coffee Lovers Box

You have been selected as one of the lucky few for a unique opportunity to receive a Starbucks Coffee Lovers Box

[Get it Now](#)



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Charity fraud

Criminals may take advantage of our generosity when giving to charity. They may claim to be raising money for a fake charity or impersonate a well-known one.

When you meet a fundraiser in-person, check their credentials:

- Street collectors should wear an ID badge that is clearly visible.
- Any collection buckets should be sealed and undamaged. Most fundraising materials should feature a charity's name, registration number and a landline phone number.
- If in doubt, ask for more information – a genuine fundraiser should be happy to answer your questions.

When giving online, make sure the charity is genuine before giving any financial information:

- Type in the charity website address yourself, rather than clicking on a link, and look for the registered charity number on the website.
- Do not click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails.
- Never respond to unsolicited messages or calls that ask for your personal or financial details.
- Beware of any online advertisements that just feature a mobile number.
- Ignore requests to donate through a money transfer company as this is a popular scam.
- Only donate to online fundraising pages created by a person or organisation you know and trust. If in any doubt, contact the charity directly.

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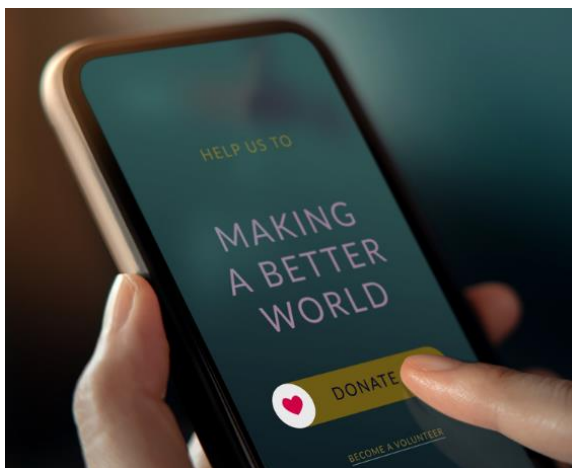
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If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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Fake Fixed Penalty Charges

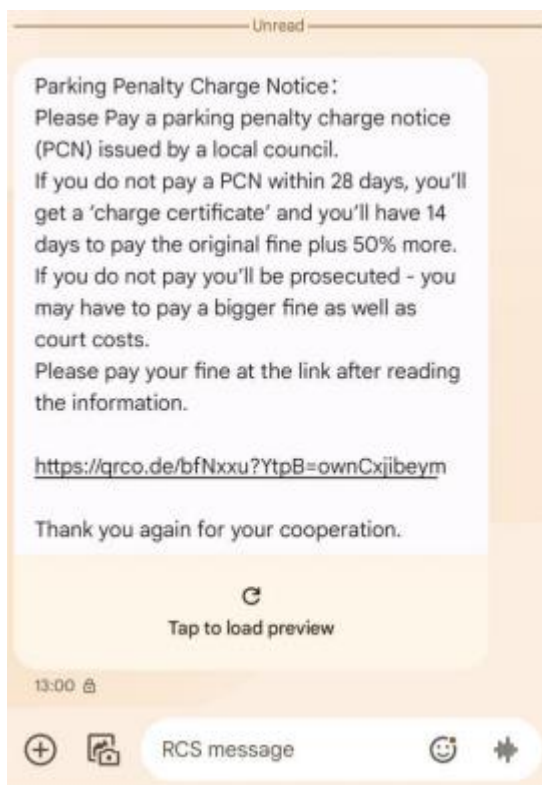
Just a reminder about these fake text messages.

The below parking fine or commonly known as a penalty charge notice is still being received via text messages across the county and is a SCAM.

Do not click on the link, as it is designed to take you to a realistic website under the control of the criminals where they will look to steal your personal and financial data.

If you are not sure if a text message is genuine, then always apply our Scam Awareness message ABC, which is never Assume or Believe a message is genuine but always Confirm. In other words, contact the sender by using a trusted phone number.

You can report Scam text messages by forwarding to 7726.



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