Kent Fraud Alert System



WhatsApp Gold Scam Alert

There have been new reports that criminals are circulating fake messages about a premium version of WhatsApp called "WhatsApp Gold", claiming it offers exclusive features like video calling, new emojis, enhanced security and rewards.

These messages often include a link to download WhatsApp Gold, however this is a scam!

There is NO official WhatsApp Gold.

Clicking the link may install malware on your device, steal your personal data, or compromise your accounts.

There has also been reports of WhatsApp users receiving a fake text messages warning about a dangerous video link called "Martinelli." The message claims that if you open this video, it will hack your phone and steal your information. The message also falsely claims that "WhatsApp Gold" — a supposed premium version of WhatsApp — will protect you from this threat.

There is no verified evidence that a "Martinelli" video exists or poses any threat to WhatsApp users.

WhatsApp Gold is a scam — it is not an official product and may lead to malware or phishing sites.

These messages are part of a scam designed to spread fear and convince users into clicking malicious links or downloading harmful apps!

How to Protect Yourself:

- Ignore and delete any message promoting WhatsApp Gold or warning you of the video "Martinelli"
- Never click on suspicious links, even if they come from friends their accounts may be compromised.
- Update WhatsApp through official app stores (Google Play or Apple App Store) ONLY.
- Enable two-step verification in WhatsApp settings for added security.
- Educate others share this alert with friends and family.

If you 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 or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at Advice about fraud | Kent Police

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams



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.







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Impersonation scam

KCC have received reports of scammers impersonating the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI). In one case, a resident who lost money through crypto trading was contacted by fraudsters claiming to be from CTSI. They asked for more money to help recover the lost.

However, this is a scam.

CTSI is a membership organisation and does not manage individual cases or claims.

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Together, let's stop scammers. Remember, ABC: never Assume never Believe always Confirm



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Police impersonation scam

We have received more reports this week of criminals posing as police officers targeting residents across Kent.

Residents are being called and told: -

- Their bank account has been compromised.
- Their card needs replacing.
- A family member has been arrested.
- The Police need their help with an investigation.
- They must buy gold and will direct you to a bullion merchant.
- A courier will collect their card, cash, or gold.

These are scams.

The police will never ask for your financial details over the phone or send someone to collect your card, cash or gold bullion.

Watch how this scam works: <u>Courier Fraud Warning: Stay Wise, Don't</u> Compromise





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