

#### Number 6 of the 12 frauds of Christmas – Romance Scams

Met someone new online who is asking for money? Stop and think—it might protect both your heart and money.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people. They spend hours researching, especially when committing romance fraud.

Never send money to someone you have only ever met online, no matter how urgent the reason they give you.

Find out more at https://actionfraud.police.uk/news/12frauds

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 <u>www.actionfraud.police.uk</u> or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at <u>Advice about fraud |</u> <u>Kent Police</u>

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

## **Preventing fraud**

Together, let's stop scammers.



### Remember, ABC:

<u>never</u> Assume

<u>never</u> Believe

<u>always</u> **C**onfirm





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.



#### Number 7 of the 12 frauds of Christmas – Gift Card Fraud

Last Christmas, almost £5 million was lost to gift card fraud.

Watch out for unsolicited callers claiming you need to purchase gift cards to pay a fine or bill.

Additionally, criminals will contact you impersonating a family member or friend with a time sensitive bill to pay and state how they desperately need your help and could you buy a gift card and send them the number.

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#### Free Amazon laptops – I Think Not.

A Kent resident has reported seeing on Instagram an avert which is advertising a quantity of HP laptops that Amazon are giving away to over 50's. The Adverts states you simply need to pay £2 for delivery via a debit/credit card and that the laptop is free of charge.

The resident rang Amazon who knew nothing about this scheme and confirmed that it is a scam.

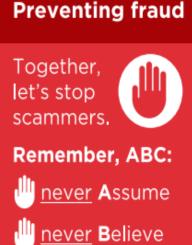
Always remember if it appears too good to be true, then it is, as in this instance the criminals are looking to steal your financial data.

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#### Number 8 of the 12 frauds of Christmas – Charity Fraud

Thinking about giving to charity this Christmas? Do not let your money end up in a criminal's pocket.

The risk of fraud should not put you off giving to charities but you should be vigilant and make sure you are giving safely.

Find out more, visit - Steps to safer giving - Donate with Confidence

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#### Number 9 of the 12 frauds of Christmas – Investment Scams

This festive season do not become the victim of a fake "investment" opportunity.

Criminals will present professional and credible-looking online adverts, send emails, and create websites to advertise fake investment opportunities.

Learn to spot the signs and find out more at - Investment fraud | Action Fraud

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