

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Latest fraud scams

Fraudsters Impersonating Kent Police

Fraud detectives are warning residents to beware of criminals who are using police phone numbers to target vulnerable people.

Those responsible are not actually calling from a Kent Police station but are changing their caller ID to make it appear like they are – a process known as ‘spoofing’.

Since the beginning of July the force has received at least three reports of this nature from people living in Faversham, Gravesend and Gillingham.

On each occasion the victim was contacted by someone claiming to be from Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs, who told them they were wanted for tax evasion and would shortly be contacted by a police officer. They were then asked what their local police station was, giving the fraudster the opportunity to research the phone number for that station and arranging for an accomplice to pretend to call back on it. Two of those targeted were so worried about being arrested that they agreed to pay the bogus police officer around £900 each to settle the amount they were told they owed.

Detective Sergeant Alec Wood of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: ‘Criminals are always looking for new ways in which to win the trust of those they target, and calling from a number that appears to be a police number is the latest trick up their sleeve. ‘It is important to remember that a police officer will never ask you to pay money over the phone, nor will they threaten you with arrest for not paying. Never give out your personal information in response to an incoming call, or rely upon the caller ID as the sole means of identification – particularly if the caller is asking you to do something that will affect you financially.’

If somebody rings you asking for this information, do not give it to them. Instead, hang up the phone and call a trusted number from a different phone or wait at least five minutes to ensure the line has cleared and you are not still talking to the same fraudster or an accomplice. Contact your bank immediately if you think you may have been scammed and also report the incident to Action Fraud.



**Kent
Police**

Contacting 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 deaf or speech impaired, text ‘**police**’ and your message to **60066**

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Resident in Westerham targeted by water testing scam

From KCC Public Protection - A resident in Westerham received a series of telephone calls about testing their household water. The scam works by the fraudsters ringing the intended victim claiming to be from a company called EMF Water Testing Services, a "government backed scheme". They offer a free test to show the hardness and pH of tap water in your home. They say that the wrong pH in tap water has health implications for COVID-19. They say they have engineers in your area and can visit your home to test the water. This is a scam. Please do not let them in and if they do not leave call 999. You can report this scam to Action Fraud or to Citizens Advice via 0808 223 1133. You can check who supplies your water at OFWAT and they can tell you the hardness of your water and chemical breakdown if you want to find out.

Rogue Trader – Impersonating the CALL BLOCKING SERVICE

A Kent resident received a call recently from 02817082437 stating they were from the Call Blocking Service. They informed them that their subscription was due to run out in seven days and they required their ID number to renew this and that they would then send out their confirmation paperwork in seven days. The intended victim informed them that they did not have an ID number and was told it was on their bank statement next to the direct debit payment for their phone supplier. When the intended victim told them there was no number, they were told it was at the top of the bank statement. The intended victim told the fraudsters to send him through some paperwork to confirm all this but they declined and immediately put the phone down. From online research of the number they were calling from it would appear to be linked to fraudulent calls. If you receive a call from this number, terminate it immediately and if you have a call blocking service in place, please update not to accept calls from this number.



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Microsoft Covid-19 relief funds

From CIFAS - A large number of people have reported receiving emails claiming to be from a Senior Director from Microsoft, and claiming that an online email beta test was carried out and the recipient's email address was selected to receive a payment from the 'Microsoft Coronavirus Relief Fund'. Recipients are asked to open an attached JPG file to view details and receive further information on how to claim this fund. Fraudsters go to great lengths to make emails look genuine, and so it is important that people never share financial or personal information if they cannot confirm the legitimacy of the sender.

This is obviously a scam, please do not open any links and be on the lookout for this email.

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



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Police**

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