

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Fraudsters Impersonating Police

We have been made aware that telephone fraudsters are cold calling residents in the north of the county and claiming to be police officers based in London. They then attempt to get the victim to hand over money or personal banking details. They often target the elderly, or people who they think are vulnerable. Please share this information and advice with friends and family.

Since 1 September 2020, we have been notified of 11 incidents where a member of the public living in north Kent was contacted by someone saying there was an issue with their bank account. The calls have been received by residents in Dartford, Higham, Longfield, Rochester and Gillingham. In most of the incidents, the suspect has claimed to be a detective based at a London police station and they advise the victim that their card has been used fraudulently.

In one incident it was arranged for a courier, who claimed to be acting on behalf of the police, to collect cash from a victim. More than £5,000 is reported to have been stolen.

Detective Sergeant Marc Cananur, from our Serious Economic Crime Unit, said: 'A police officer will never ask a member of the public to hand over money, nor will they request banking details or a person's national insurance number. In most of these incidents, no money or personal details were exchanged but I would urge members of the public to wary of this type of scam. Fraudsters can go to great lengths to appear genuine and often target the elderly or people who they think are vulnerable. We are reviewing the incidents and take offending like this extremely seriously. At the same time, there are a number of precautions you can take which can reduce your chances of falling victim to this type of offence. I would encourage everyone to take heed of the following advice and share it with friends and family.'

Advice:

- If you receive one of these calls end it immediately and wait at least five minutes before using your telephone in order to clear your line from the scammer.
- Never hand over any money, or other items, to a courier after receiving this type of call.
- If you are not confident a person claiming to be a police officer is genuine, ask to take their details and end the call. A police call handler will be able to verify whether your caller was genuine.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



Remember, ABC:

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice: 
[@KentPoliceECU](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceECU)



**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**

www.kent.police.uk   

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- If you can, use a different phone to the one you received the original call on to report the matter to the police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.
- Alternatively, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. You can also report suspicious activity online by visiting: http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud
- The matter can also be reported to Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

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 never **B**elieve

 always **C**onfirm

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