

# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## Car Selling Scams on Social Media

Just recently I have seen an increase in reports of people being scammed when buying vehicles online. Typically, these scams involve criminals posting non-existent vehicles or vehicle parts on social media. Scammers will use stolen images of genuine vehicles and sometimes even feature a fake address. The victim then sends the criminals money in anticipation that the vehicle will be delivered. However, it never is and when the victim attempts to contact the seller, they discover the ad and the seller have disappeared.

To avoid falling for these scams, use our top tips when browsing online for a new car:

- Be wary of a bargain, as this is common tactic scammers use to lure you in.
- Be especially careful when using an online marketplace.
- Check documents – ask to see the seller's vehicle logbook (V5C). This is needed when a vehicle is sold, so legitimate sellers should have it.
- Ask for the registration number and check that the details match up on the DVLA's vehicle enquiry service.
- Look out for pressure-selling tactics, such as telling you that a lot of other people are interested in the vehicle, or you only have a limited time to buy it.
- Don't pay for anything until you've inspected the vehicle. During your inspection, check that the documents and vehicle details all match up.
- Don't pay via bank transfer, as it offers little protection. Instead use a platform such as PayPal or a credit card for additional protection if things go wrong.

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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.



## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



### Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest  
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



## Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://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](http://www.kent.police.uk)   