

Kent Fraud Alert System



Courier Fraud ALERT!!! – Please share this is important

In the last 3 weeks we have had in excess of 50 reports of Courier Fraud across Kent.

Courier fraud occurs when a criminal contacts a victim by telephone purporting to be a police officer or bank official. To substantiate this claim, the caller might be able to confirm some easily obtainable basic details about the victim such as their full name and address.

The criminal may also offer a telephone number for the victim to telephone or ask the victim to call the number on the back of their bank card to check that they are genuine or to not disconnect the call and ring 999. In these circumstances, either the number offered will not be genuine or, where a genuine number is suggested, the criminal will stay on the line and pass the victim to a different individual.

After some trust has been established, the fraudster will then, for example, suggest,

- Some money has been removed from a victim's bank account and staff at their local bank branch are responsible.
- Suspects have already been arrested but the "police" need money for evidence.
- A business such as a jewellers or currency exchange is operating fraudulently and they require assistance to help secure evidence.
- An offender has been arrested with the victim's bank card.

Victims are then asked to co-operate in an investigation by attending their bank and withdrawing money, withdrawing foreign currency from an exchange or purchasing an expensive item to hand over to a courier for examination who will also be a fraudster.

At the time of handover, unsuspecting victims are promised the money they've handed over or spent will be reimbursed but there is no further contact and the money is never seen again.

THE POLICE WILL NEVER CONTACT YOU ASKING YOU TO WITHDRAW MONEY FROM YOUR BANK OR PURCHASE HIGH VALUE ITEMS FOR THEM TO COLLECT. NEITHER WILL THEY ASK TO COLLECT YOU BAN CARD(S).

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 or call 0300 123 2040.



**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 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   