

# Kent Fraud Alert System



**TO STOP FRAUD™**

## WhatsApp Scams Targeting Charity and Religious Groups

The scam begins when a criminal gets access to another WhatsApp account which has you listed as a contact.

The criminal posing as your friend or someone that's a member of a WhatsApp group you are a member of will then send you seemingly normal messages to try and start a conversation with you. However, around the same time, you will receive a text message from WhatsApp with a six-digit code. This is because the criminal has been trying to login to WhatsApp using your mobile number. The criminal will claim that they sent you their code by accident and ask you to help them by sending it to them. Once the criminal has this code, they can login to your WhatsApp account and lock you out.

The criminal will then use the same tactic with your WhatsApp contacts in an effort to steal more accounts and use them to perpetrate fraud and will often ask your contacts to send money to a bank account as a charitable donation but it is all a scam.

## What you need to do

- Action Fraud recommend you set up two-step verification to give an extra layer of protection to your account: Tap Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.
- They added: "If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.
- "Never share your account's activation code (that's the 6 digit code you receive via SMS)
- "You can report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions."

## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



**Remember, ABC:**



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest  
scam advice:



**@KentPoliceECU**



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.



**Kent  
Police**

## Contacting 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 deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

