

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Variation of WhatsApp Scam AKA as the “Scam of Mum and Dad.”

I have been contacted by several Kent residents who received the below Text message from an unknown number. The text stated that it was a family member using a friend’s phone, as they had smashed their old phone and then asking the intended victim to contact them on WhatsApp on a new number contained in the text.

It is a new variation of the WhatsApp scam. The variation is that the intended victim was first sent a text message and then asked to send a message on WhatsApp, which previously the fraudsters would have just contacted the victim directly on WhatsApp.

The intended victims applied ABC and did not Assume or Believe the text was genuine and telephoned the family member who they thought had sent the message on their existing number to find out they had not smashed their phone and it was a SCAM.

It is believed that the scammers thinking is by sending the first message as a text, implies a sense of it being more legitimate.

If you get any suspicious text messages, then forward to 7726 (SPAM)

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.

Text Message
Today 15:06

Mum I smashed my phone and I'm using a friends phone to msg you there phone is about to die Could you message me on WhatsApp, my new number is [07985152719](tel:07985152719)

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**

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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Rental Fraud

We have recently received reports of rental fraud scams.

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Rental fraud happens when would-be tenants are tricked into paying an upfront fee to rent a property.

In reality, the property does not exist, has already been rented out, or has been rented to multiple victims at the same time.

The victim loses the upfront fee they have paid and is not able to rent the property they thought they had secured with the payment. Rental fraudsters often target students looking for university accommodation.

Rental fraud is a type of advance fee fraud.

Protect yourself from rental fraud:

- Do not send money to anyone advertising rental properties online until you are certain the advertiser is genuine.
- If you need to secure accommodation in the UK from overseas, seek the help of the employer or university you are coming to, or get a friend, contact or relative to check the property exists and is available.
- Do not pay any money until you or a reliable contact has visited the property with an agent or the landlord.
- Ask for copies of tenancy agreements and any safety certificates such as Gas Electricity or HMO Licence.
- Do not be pressurised into transferring large sums of money.

Transfer funds to a bank account having obtained the details by contacting the landlord or agent directly after the above steps have been followed. Be sceptical if you're asked to transfer any money via a money transfer service like Western Union.

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.

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Bank/Telephone impersonation scam



We have received several reports of the above scam. Victims have stated that they have received phone calls from a person stating that they are from the fraud department of their Bank, when in fact they were a fraudster. They were told someone within the Bank was trying to obtain money from their account. They were given a code word by the fraudster to use this and to only speak to them. The victims were then

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instructed to transfer their money into a safe account that had been opened for them. In reality, this was an account under control of the fraudster, who can then withdraw the monies or transfer them out. Other variations of this scam involved the victim being asked to withdraw money and send it in an envelope by post to an address supplied to them. It is all a SCAM.

Your bank will never ask you to transfer monies to a safe account or to withdraw your money and send it via post to a safe address.

Remember our ABC advice and never Assume or Believe a call is genuine and always Confirm by ringing a trusted number. When calling try to use a different phone to the one you were rung on, as fraudsters can stay on the line. If no other phone is available, then wait 10 minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure that the line has been cleared.

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.

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[@KentPoliceECU](https://twitter.com/KentPoliceECU)



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Cost of living scams

With money tight, fraudsters are very active in sending out too good to be true offers, like fake supermarket vouchers. They ask you to complete a survey by "clicking on a link" in a text or email. They are a scam.

If you get one of these or any other suspicious emails, then forward to report@phishing.gov.uk or texts to 7726 (SPAM)

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.

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SCAM WARNING



SCAM EMAILS: Supermarket voucher giveaways

Action Fraud has received 277 reports in one week relating to supermarket voucher giveaways. The emails state that the recipient is "one of 3 people in the final draw" for a £1,000 supermarket voucher, and encourages people to use the provided links in order to confirm their details. The links provided in the emails lead to phishing websites that are designed to steal your personal information.

- If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. Don't use the numbers or address in the message – use the details from their official website. Your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email.
- Spotted a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - report@phishing.gov.uk



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Presentations for 2023



The team have been very busy this year attending and presenting at events across the county and we already have several bookings for 2023. So, if you are interested in some fraud prevention advice from us for any organisations that you run or a member of, then drop me an email at Stephen.kelly@kent.police.uk By raising awareness of fraud and how people can protect themselves we saw in the last financial a reduction of 17% in reported fraud losses. Our presentations are a free service, although a cup of tea is always welcome.



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