

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Latest fraud scams

Rogue Trader Arrests

Detectives investigating fraud offences reported to have been committed against vulnerable people across Kent have made four arrests.

A 35-year-old man from Canterbury, a 33-year-old man from Loughton in Essex, a 26-year-old man from Maidstone and a 24-year-old man from Ashford were detained at around 3.30pm on Wednesday 15 July 2020 and remain in custody.

They were arrested together at the M20 Maidstone services in a van believed linked to offences currently being investigated by officers from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate.

Victims have reported being targeted by rogue tradesmen carrying out substandard work on their properties, before then receiving follow-up calls from fraudsters pretending to be police officers.

The bogus officers claim to have arrested those responsible for the work before then asking to collect the victims' bank cards so they can be used as evidence.

Detective Sergeant Marc Cananur of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: 'A police officer will never ask you to withdraw money or hand over your bank cards. Anyone who does receive a suspicious telephone call of this nature should hang up, wait five minutes to ensure the line is clear, and then call 101 to check the credentials of the person who called.'

'It is not unusual for fraudsters to target the same property twice, for example by carrying out substandard or unnecessary repairs for a high fee and then posing as a police officer who is investigating the very crime they themselves have committed.'

'Contact your bank immediately if you think you may have been scammed and also report the incident to Action Fraud.'

'Remember the ABC rule to help protect yourself and others against fraud – never Assume someone is telling the truth, never Believe what they say unless you are confident they are who they say they are, and always Confirm the details they have provided.'

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice:



@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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Sky Scam Reported by Gravesend Resident – From our colleagues at KCC Public Protection

How the scam works

What Happens -

- The resident gets a telephone call from someone claiming to be from Sky.
- They offer the resident a discount due to their age and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- After giving their bank details they become unsure.
- They call Sky who advises it was not a genuine call but a scam.
- The resident then calls their bank to alert them and are told by their bank to move their money to another account to safeguard it. The resident moved over £40,000 to an account he was told to on the telephone call.

What to do -

- This is a scam.
- Never respond to unexpected or cold calls.
- This scam works because the criminal does not hang up the phone, so when the resident calls Sky and then his bank he is still connected and speaking with the criminals.
- If you think you have fallen for a telephone scam, check the line by dialling and speaking with a family member or friend.

You can call the Police by ringing 101 or if the crime is happening ring 999. You can also report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at

www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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Medway residents reminded to stay safe following bogus police phone calls

Medway residents are being reminded to stay safe following reports of people claiming to be police officers and calling pensioners. On 6 July 2020 Kent Police received a phone call from a resident in Hutsford Close, Gillingham, where they told officers a man had called at around 10am claiming to work for Kent Police.

At 10.42am on the same day officers also received a report from a resident in Cypress Road, Rochester. In both reports the victims, who are both in their 80s, told police that a man claimed to have their nephew in custody and that they needed to check their bank details. During the calls the man asked the victims if they had money in their homes and also claimed he would send officers round so they knew it was genuine.

A resident in Gravesend Road, Rochester, also reported a concerning phone call on 6 July at around 11.22am where a man claiming to work for Essex Police told the victim her husband was in custody. However, the victim's husband was at home when they received the phone call.

Chief Inspector Matthew Burbeck, Kent Police's District Commander for Medway said: 'Unfortunately we hear of crimes of this type and those targeted are often some of the most vulnerable people in our community. A police force will never ask a member of the public for their bank details or money over the phone, nor would a force ever ask anyone to visit their bank and withdraw money before handing it over. 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. If you are reading this and have vulnerable friends and family who are not on social media, or who have internet access, please do share this information with them so they are aware.'

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