Kent Fraud Alert System

On Line Shopping Scams

During this time of lock down and Xmas fast approaching, many people will be turning to online shopping to purchase presents and likely to be taking advantage of Black Friday offers over the next week. The following hints will hopefully help you stay safe online. Please remember to always use ABC.

Be a safe and shopper by:

- Reading reviews from reputable sources to check websites and sellers are genuine
- Using the secure payment method recommended by reputable online retailers
- Accessing the website you're purchasing from by typing it into the web browser
- Using a credit card for purchases over £100 and up to £30,000 for added security.
- Don't accept requests rushing you to pay by bank transfer
- Avoid clicking on links in emails as they could lead to fake websites

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.

Remember, ABC:

never **A**ssume

never **B**elieve

always **C**onfirm

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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TAKE FIVE TO STOP FRAUD™

Fraudsters Impersonating Action Fraud

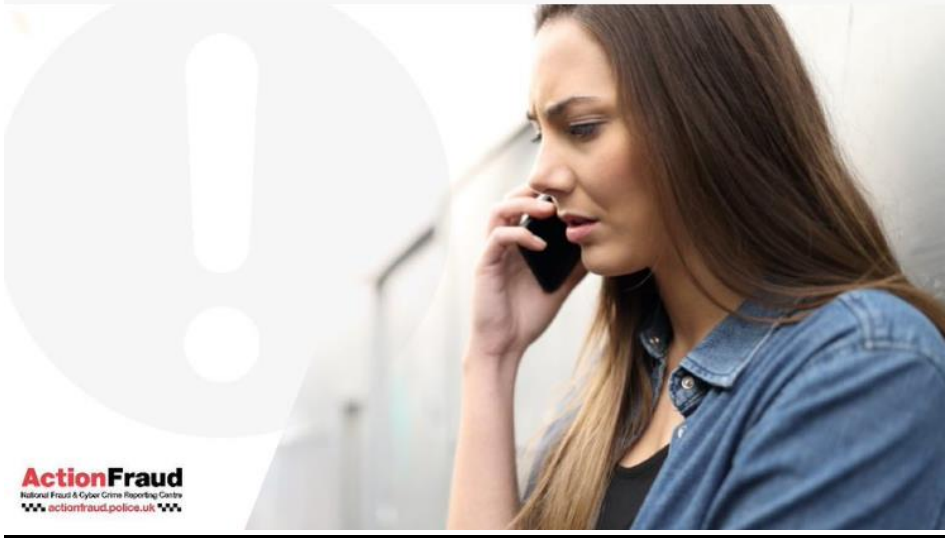
Action Fraud have reported that fraudsters have been impersonating them and contacting the public by phone and email (see below). Please remember that Action Fraud would never contact you and ask for financial data, PIN's or request you to withdraw monies from your bank as part of an investigation or for then to keep your money safe for you. If you believe that you have been a victim of this, then please contact your Bank immediately and report this to Action Fraud or the Police.

Action Fraud @actionfrauduk · Nov 19

Alert: We are aware of a new scam circulating where criminals are contacting victims claiming to be from Action Fraud.

If you get a call from someone claiming to be from Action Fraud, hang up immediately. If you receive a suspicious email, report it to: Report@phishing.gov.uk

Show this thread



Preventing fraud

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Remember, ABC:

never Assume

never Believe

always Confirm

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HMRC Self-assessment scams/Tax rebate scams

HMRC has issued a warning to self-assessment customers following reports of impersonation fraud.

HMRC issues thousands of SMS messages and emails as part of its annual Self-Assessment tax return push. HMRC is warning customers completing their returns to take care to avoid being caught out by scammers. The annual tax return deadline is on 31 January 2021.

Fraudsters use calls, emails or texts to contact customers. In the last 12 months, HMRC has responded to more than 846,000 referrals of suspicious HMRC contact from the public and reported over 15,500 malicious web pages to internet service providers to be taken down. Almost 500,000 of the referrals from the public offered bogus tax rebates.

Many scams target customers to inform them of a fake 'tax rebate' or 'tax refund' they are due. The imposters use language intended to convince them to hand over personal information, including bank details, in order to claim the 'refund'. Criminals will use this information to access customers' bank accounts, trick them into paying fictitious tax bills, or sell on their personal information to other criminals.

HMRC has a dedicated Customer Protection team that identifies and close's scams but asks the public to recognise the signs to avoid becoming a victim. HMRC regularly publishes examples of new scams on their website to help customers recognise phishing emails and bogus contact by email, text or phone.

It could be a scam if it:

- is unexpected
- offers a refund, tax rebate or grant
- asks for personal information like bank details
- is threatening
- tells you to transfer money.

For further information visit –

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phishing-and-bogus-emails-hm-revenue-and-customs-examples

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Fake Text messages impersonating your Bank

Recently I reported on scam text messages like the one below impersonating bank's and asking you to click a link (see very bottom of this message).

I have recently been notified of further messages like the following being received purporting to be other banks etc. the following is an example of a message impersonating Tesco Bank.

"TESCO BANK. you have successfully paired a NEW DEVICE on 19/11 at 16.41 PM. If this was NOT you, visit. Tesco-Bank-online.com/?ac=on"

I wanted to remind everyone that if you receive messages like this that they are a scam and that your bank will never send you a message requesting that you click on a link. The fraudsters are trying to obtain your personal and financial details and possibly trying to get you to download malicious Malware into your system.

If you get anything like this, please do not click the link and contact your banks fraud department to make them aware of the details.

If you think you may have been tricked by one of these messages, then contact your bank immediately by using a trusted number and report it to Action Fraud.

Kent Police

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