

# Kent Fraud Alert System



## Courier Fraud

This remains a massive problem and Action Fraud have just reported that £880,000 has been stolen by criminals across the UK in 2 months.

**TO STOP FRAUD™**

Courier fraud occurs when a fraudster contacts you 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 you such as your full name and address. The caller may also offer a telephone number for you to call or ask you to call the number on the back of your bank card to check that they are genuine. In these circumstances, either the number offered will not be genuine or where a genuine number is suggested, the fraudster will stay on the line and pass you to a different individual. The fraudsters may suggest that,

- Money has been removed from your 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 from you to help secure evidence.

You may be asked to co-operate in an investigation by attending your 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, you will be promised the money they've handed over or spent will be reimbursed but there is no further contact and your money is gone.

Your bank or the police will never call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN by phone or offer to pick up cash or your card by courier. Hang up if you get a call like this. However, if you are unsure, then ask the caller for their details, then either use another phone or wait five minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line is clear and then ring 101 for the Police or the number on the back of your Bank Card. If you believe that you have been a victim or the incident is occurring now, then ring the Police.

### Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



#### Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



POLICE - ALERT

Victims lost over  
**£880k** to courier  
fraud in two months



ActionFraud  
www.actionfraud.police.uk

CLASSIFICATION - SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION

February 2021



**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)



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## Royal Mail scams X 2

The first relates to a Text message impersonating Royal Mail which is currently circulating. It has a veiled threat that you if do not click on the link to pay a £2.99 shipping fee, then “action will be taken.” This is a “SCAM.” If you click the link you are taken to a fake website to steal your personal and Banking details which scammers will use to take out loans, credit cards etc. in your name or steal your monies from your accounts. **DO NOT CLICK THIS LINK** and forward to 7726.

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.



FRAUD ALERT- Action Fraud have been notified of 1700 Royal Mail phishing emails in a week. If you receive one of these **do not click on any links**, it is a scam and again the fraudsters are looking to steal your data and monies. Forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

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## SCAM WARNING

### Over 1,700 Royal Mail scam emails reported in one week

Action Fraud received over 1,700 reports in one week about fake emails purporting to be from Royal Mail. The emails notify the recipients about missed parcel deliveries and provide links to reschedule them. The links in the emails lead to genuine-looking phishing websites that are designed to steal personal and financial information.

- Your bank, or any other official organisation, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you need to check that it's a genuine message, call them directly.
- Received a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)



# Kent Police

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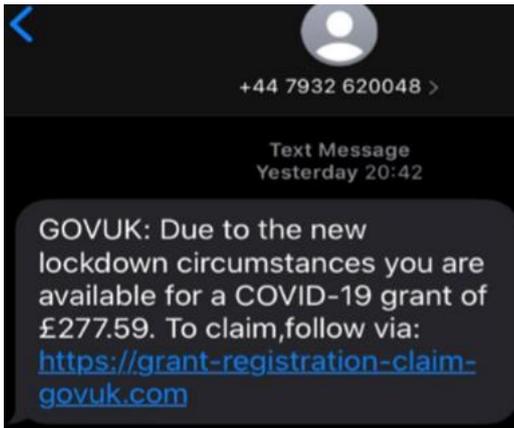
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## Covid-19 Grants

Kent Public Protection have received reports of unsolicited text messages targeting Kent residents like the one below



How does the scam work?

- You receive a text message from an unknown number.
- The text will start with 'GOVUK'
- It will claim you are eligible for a COVID-19 grant due to the current lockdown.
- You will be directed to a link to a fraudulent website.

This is a smishing scam and do not click on any links as they want your personal and banking data, to take out loans etc. in your name or steal your monies. Forward the text to 7726.

If you believe you have been a victim of this scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

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