

# Kent Fraud Alert System



**TO STOP FRAUD™**

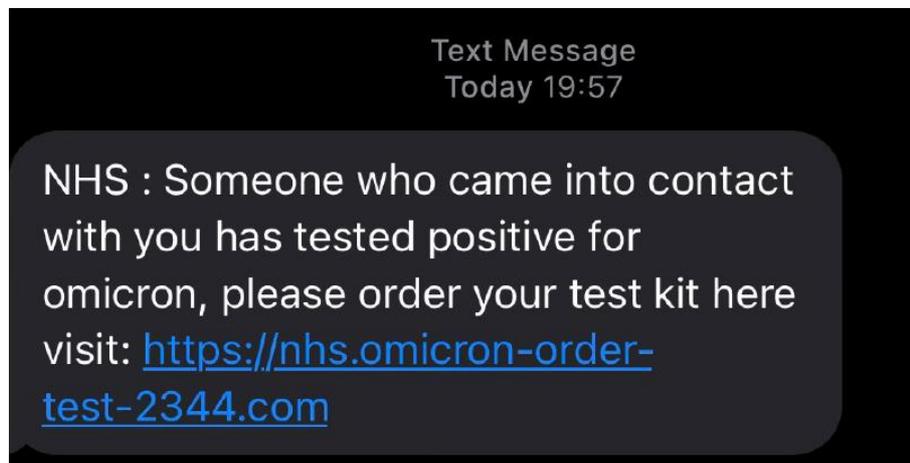
## Covid/Omicron Scam

The below message was received by a Kent resident this week, who kindly forwarded it to me, which is a smishing text impersonating the NHS and stating that you have been exposed to Omicron and need to click on a link in the text to obtain a test kit.

Remember the NHS etc. will never send a message like the below asking you to click on a link and disclose personal and financial details to receive a Covid Test. The message below is designed to promote panic and get people to respond quickly. Remember to apply "Take Five" and take a step back and have a think before rushing to respond. If in doubt always try to confirm that a text or email is genuine by calling using a trusted number.

If you receive a suspicious text message, then forward to 7726.

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



## Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



### Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:



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



**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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## Crypto Currency Scams

We have recently had a few reports of this type of fraud where people have been falling victim. Therefore, I wanted to share the following advice with you on how to avoid becoming a victim.



Investment scams aim to get unsuspecting people to hand over money. On the face of it, they can seem perfectly legitimate, appearing knowledgeable with websites, testimonials and marketing material. All investment scams have one thing in common, they claim to be able to offer high levels of return for very little risk.

## Protecting yourself

The most important things to remember is if an investment opportunity sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Know the warning signs of a possible fraud:

- Unexpected contact – either by telephone, email or social media
- Time pressure – being offered a bonus or discount if an investment is made before a set date/ the offer is only available for a short period
- Unrealistic returns – returns that sound too good to be true
- Flattery – being over friendly when discussing investment opportunities
- Social proof – They may share fake reviews and claim other clients have invested or want in on the deal

## How to protect yourself:

- Reject unsolicited investment offers whether made online, on social media or over the phone. Be wary even if you initiated contact.
- Always check the Financial Services Register at [register.fca.org.uk](http://register.fca.org.uk) to make sure you're dealing with an authorised firm and check the FCA Warning List of firms to avoid.
- Only use the telephone number and email address on the FCA Register, not the contact details the firm gives you and look out for subtle differences.
- Consider seeking impartial advice before investing.

Investors can test if they can spot an investment scam from a smart investment by taking the Scam or Smart quiz, visit [www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart](http://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart) to find out more.

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

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## Delivery Scams

Quick reminder to take care if you receive a text message stating that you have missed a delivery and that you need to click on a link to organise a new delivery date and pay a fee, normally £1.10 etc. Any unsolicited messages like this are likely to be a scam. By clicking the link, you will normally be re-directed to a very convincing website, which will ask for your personal details and card details to pay the above fee.

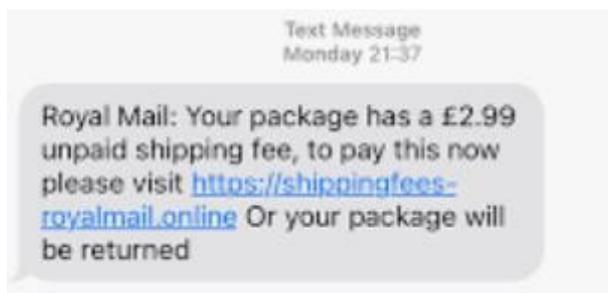
Recently “Which” reported on a bogus text message being sent that impersonates the Post Office and the web sites that people were redirected to, were very convincing.

**Quick tip** - One way to spot messages like these are scams, is that the message will often state the Post Office tried to deliver a parcel or letter etc. Please remember, the Post Office does not deliver post or parcels these are delivered by the Royal Mail.

Additionally, if you get a message claiming to be “Royal Mail,” remember they do not send texts and they will leave a card through your letterbox asking you to go to your local sorting office with ID to collect your package.

Generally, treat any text or email messages asking you to click on a link, with suspicion as it is likely to be a scam. If unsure you should confirm by calling via a trusted number to ensure any request is genuine.

Forward suspicious emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and suspicious texts to 7726. Try to avoid clicking on links out of curiosity, as there is always a danger you may download malware.



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

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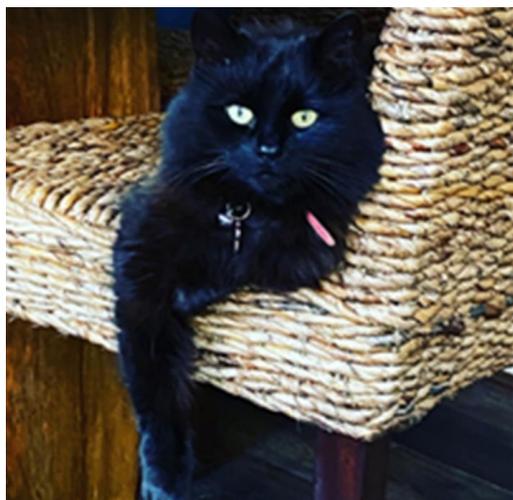
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## And Finally

Today is the last day of a national campaign to raise awareness about Romance scams. However, next month “Ripley Cat” will be giving advice for Valentines on how to avoid being scammed. In the mean while she would like to say, "Never send money to people you've only met online and seek advice from family and friends or even dad and his mates in the Police if unsure."



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