

# Kent Fraud Alert System



## Covid/Omicron Scam

Although I alerted this scam on 21<sup>st</sup> January, I thought it worthwhile repeating this alert again, as the below texts were received by Kent resident's this week impersonating the NHS. They stated that they had been exposed to Omicron and needed to click on a link to obtain a test kit. If you click on the link it will take you to a realistic looking website, where the fraudsters will try to obtain your personal and financial data.

**TO STOP FRAUD™**

Remember the NHS etc. will never send a message 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 by calling 0300 123 2040.

## Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



**Remember, ABC:**

 never Assume

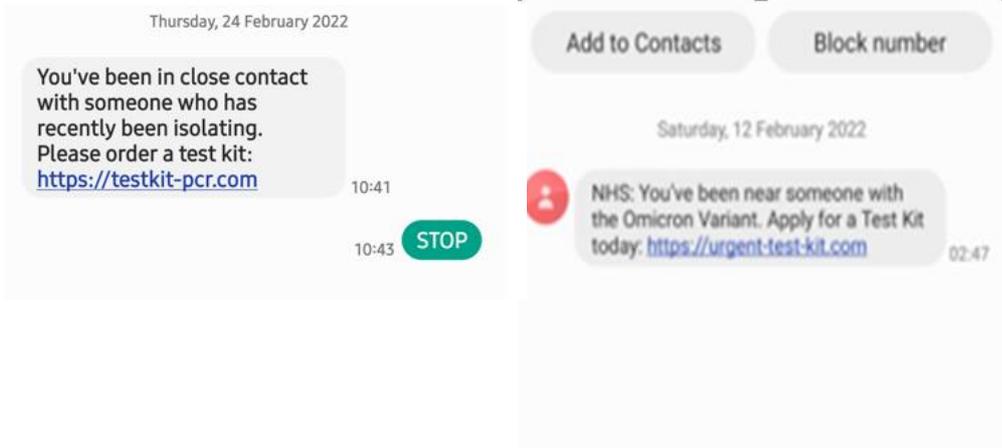
 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



**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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## Payment in Advance Scam

### WHAT IS IT?

Also known as an advance fee scam, this is when you're convinced to pay an upfront fee to receive a prize/service, high-value goods or loans which never materialise.

### HOW TO SPOT A PAYMENT IN ADVANCE SCAM

1. You're asked to pay an upfront fee to receive money, a prize/service or goods that you weren't expecting
2. You're asked to pay an upfront fee for a training programme or background check for a job that may not exist
3. You're told that the fee is fully refundable and will be used as a deposit or an administrative charge
4. There are follow-up fees you need to pay to secure the loan, prize/service or goods
5. You are put under pressure to pay quickly by wire, bank transfer or cryptocurrency
6. The domain name doesn't match that of the sender of the email e.g. gov.uk



Examples of these kinds of scams, are loans, lottery wins, recruitment etc.

Remember if it is too good to be true, then it is.

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## British Gas Phishing Email

if you have received an email like the below, it's not from British Gas - it's a SCAM!

With the energy price cap increasing, we may see more attempts to impersonate energy companies. If you get an email and you are not sure if it is genuine, then Take Five and think about it and then apply ABC and do not Assume or Believe it is genuine but Confirm by contacting your energy company on trusted number. Do not click on links in emails or Texts.

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 by calling 0300 123 2040.



## **Your bill is still overdue and needs paying**

Hello

We sent you a gas bill for £3.71, and we still haven't received payment. If you've paid it in the last five days, please ignore this email. To see if your payment has cleared you can [check your account](#).

Nextsteps.

If we do not receive a payment or hear from you in the next two days and we have to contact you again, you will be charged £140 to cover our reasonable costs

If we have to visit your property to collect this debt you will be charged £540

If the debt remains unpaid we plan to obtain a court warrant to visit your home and either replace your gas meter with a pay as you go meter or disconnect your gas supply this could result in additional charges of up to £402

If your gas supply is disconnected we will charge you £750 to reconnect your supply

## **Preventing fraud**

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### **Remember, ABC:**



**never Assume**



**never Believe**



**always Confirm**

Get the latest scam advice:



**@KentPoliceECU**



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