

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

McAfee Scam Emails

SCAM WARNING: Watch out for FAKE McAfee emails. These have been reported to Action Fraud over 4,500 times.

The emails ask you to click on a link that will take you to suspicious looking websites where they will steal your financial data.

You can report suspicious emails by forwarding them to:
report@phishing.gov.uk

Your reports enable them to remove emails and websites used to perpetrate fraud.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information and advice about Fraud, visit our website at -
[Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest
scam advice: 
[@KentPoliceECU](#)

McAfee scam emails

Action Fraud has received 4,531 reports since 1st April 2024 relating to fake emails purporting to be from McAfee. The emails state that the recipient's computer "could be at risk" from "viruses and other malware" if they don't renew their anti-virus subscription. The links in the emails lead to phishing websites that are designed to steal your personal and financial information.

HOW TO DEAL WITH SUSPICIOUS MESSAGES

If you have doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. **Don't** use the numbers or address in the message – use the details from their official website. Your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email.

Spotted a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - report@phishing.gov.uk



**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 you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.

Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

www.kent.police.uk   

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Courier Fraud

This week we have received reports of Courier Fraud from the following areas, Tenterden, Maidstone, Dover, Margate, Broadstairs, Dartford, Romney Marsh, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford and Gravesend.

Courier Fraud is a type of fraud where fraudsters contact victims by telephone, pretending to be a Police Officer or bank official. The caller might be able to confirm some easily obtainable basic details about the victim such as their full name and address to substantiate their claim. The Criminals trick victims into thinking they are dealing with genuine officials.

When impersonating Police, they will often ask you to withdraw cash from your Bank to assist with an investigation. They will arrange for the money to be collected for fingerprinting etc. but is all a scam. They may state that they have arrested someone with your Bank card. They will then request financial details and arrange collection of your cards as part of their evidence.

They have also directed victims to purchase high value items, such as gold to help with an investigation. However, all these scenarios are a scam.

Our basic advice is –

IF you are ever asked to withdraw cash by the police or handover your bank cards or assist with an investigation by buying and handing over valuable items, in particular, Gold – STOP IT'S A SCAM and report to Police.

For more information visit our website at - [Door-to-door and courier fraud | Kent Police](#)



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Roofer Jailed for Fraud Offences in East Kent

A rogue roofer has been jailed for six years after deliberately ripping off his customers with overpriced repairs. Terry Green, 27, gained his victims' trust by initially charging reasonable prices before telling them additional and far more expensive work was required.

Kent Police became aware of his offending in April 2022 when a resident of Westgate, Thanet, reported paying Green £1,650 for repairs that were then not completed. The woman told officers she had agreed to the work after originally being quoted £45 to replace a roof tile, and then transferred the additional larger sum as a deposit for further repairs. However, Green packed up his tools and left the property after she reconsidered and insisted on obtaining a second opinion.



Terry Green

Damaged

Two months later Green revisited the home of an elderly couple in Sandwich who he had previously conducted work for, to ask if they wanted him to repair their damaged chimney. He initially quoted £350 but later told them their entire roof needed replacing at a cost of £20,000, eventually settling on an agreed price of around £7,000. The couple ended up paying a total of £3,090 before their bank grew suspicious and stopped any further transactions. Green, of Mansion Lane in Iver, Buckinghamshire, was arrested in Minster, Thanet, on Monday 13 June 2022 and later charged with two counts of fraud. He pleaded guilty to both and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Wednesday 1 May 2024 when a further nine offences were ordered to lie on file.

Detective Sergeant Adam Stallard of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said:

'Terry Green could have earned an honest living as a roofer but made a conscious decision to cheat his customers out of their hard-earned money. 'Such criminals cause great financial hardship to those they trick into paying over the odds for substandard work, as well as a loss of confidence in the many honest tradespeople who work hard every day.' Green cold-called at his victims' homes to tell them their property needed repair. I would strongly advise anyone who receives a similar knock at their door to carefully consider their options before agreeing to any work, and to always seek a second opinion first.'



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Rogue Traders

We have received reports of Rogue Traders being active in the Gillingham area and cold calling informing residents that their roofs need replacing or repair.

These types of offences are not isolated to any individual locations and are taking place across the county.

Remember -

- Always obtain at least 3 written quotes and never agree to work on your doorstep, no matter how tempting the offer.
- Ask family and friends for recommendations.
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand.
- Never pay in full until you're completely satisfied with the work.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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Alert from Action fraud re the latest WhatsApp Scam

WhatsApp group chat members are being warned they could be targeted by criminals, as Action Fraud reveals it has received 636 reports from victims of the messaging app this year.

The fraud often begins when a member of the group receives a WhatsApp audio call from the fraudster, pretending or claiming to be another member of the group. This is done to gain the individual's trust, and often the scammer will use a false profile picture and/or display name, so at first glance it would appear to be a genuine member of the group.

The fraudster will tell the victim they are sending them a one-time passcode which will allow them to join an upcoming video call for group members. The criminal then asks the victim to share this passcode with them so they can be "registered" for the video call.

In reality, the criminal is asking for a registration code to register the victim's WhatsApp account to a new device so they can take over their account.

Once the fraudster has access to the victim's WhatsApp account, they will enable two-step verification which makes it impossible for the victim to regain access their account. Other members of the group, or friends and family in the victim's contacts, will then be messaged asking them to transfer money urgently as they are in desperate need of help.

How to secure your WhatsApp account:

- **Set up two-step verification (2SV)** to give an extra layer of protection to your account. Tap Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.
- **CALL.** If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person outside of WhatsApp to confirm their identity.
- **Report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp.** Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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