



# TARIAN

## MONTHLY FRAUD ALERT

MARCH 2024

### FREE PRODUCT EMAILS

Action Fraud have received over 3,500 reports of fake emails that impersonate DeWalt, offering free products.

This email asks you to click a link to access your free item. However, this is a scam and by clicking this link you will be giving criminals access to your personal and financial data.

Companies will never offer free products to their customers, and if they do, you will normally have to purchase something first. If you're ever unsure of whether an email is legit, check the official website online for details about this freebie.

You should report suspicious emails by forwarding them to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

### CAR SELLING SCAMS

There has been an increase in the reports of people being scammed when buying vehicles online. These scams use stolen images of genuine vehicles. The victim will send the criminals money under the impression that they will either pick their vehicle up, or that the vehicle will be delivered to them. However, they will then realise that the seller, and the ad, have disappeared.

- Beware of bargains
- Be careful using an online marketplace
- Check documents - ask to see the seller's vehicle logbook (V5C)
- Ask for the registration number
- Don't pay anything until you've inspected the vehicle.
- Never pay via bank transfer, or the friends and family section of PayPal. Only pay using a credit card or the Goods and Services section of PayPal.



If you think you've uncovered a fraud, been targeted by a fraud or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on [0300 123 2040](tel:03001232040) or via the Action Fraud website.



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### COURIER FRAUD

We are still receiving several reports of courier fraud, specifically from fraudsters posing as Police Officers. They will claim that someone has either been arrested with the victim's card or that they have arrested a family member with their card.

Victims are then asked visit their bank to withdraw their money, withdraw foreign currency from an exchange or to purchase an expensive item to hand over to a courier for examination who will also be a fraudster.

The Police will **never** contact you like this.

### WHATSAPP SCAMS

The "mum and dad" scams on WhatsApp have been also been re-emerging. Criminals will contact a family member stating that they are lost, or have damaged their phone, and that they are texting from a friend's phone, or a new phone number. They will then ask for financial assistance, and request that they pay money into a friend's bank account to help them out. This is a scam that we have seen previously, and it is clearly gaining popularity again.

To check whether it is a scam or not, we really encourage ringing the existing number that you have for them, or ringing the new number and ask to speak to whoever the scammer is claiming to be.



If you think you've uncovered a fraud, been targeted by a fraud or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on [0300 123 2040](tel:03001232040) or via the Action Fraud website.

## **Advice**

Always remember: if something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Never give anyone your bank PIN or National Insurance number.

Shred or tear up any letters that include your personal details.

Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links in an email.

Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment that you're not comfortable with.

Create strong passwords.

Never use the same password for everything.

Never tell anyone answers to your security questions.

## **Reporting**

If you think you've uncovered a fraud, been targeted by a fraud or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via the Action Fraud website.

If you have been a victim of Fraud, contact your bank immediately.

## **Support**

Take 5 - <https://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>

Citizens Advice - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/>

Crime Stoppers - Call 0800 555 111

Age Cymru - Call 0300 303 44 98

Victim Advice Line - Call 0800 952 3000