

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Fake Parking Fines

A number of residents have reported an increase in receiving fake parking fines, normally via text message. An example of one these is below.

The messages always has a lack of detail EG. No vehicle registration, location and date time of offence.

The criminals will ask you to click on a link to pay the fine but this just takes you to a realistic website under the control of the criminals, where they will steal your financial data.

Please note that you WILL NEVER receive notification of a parking fine like this from DVSA.

If you receive a suspicious text message you can report this by forwarding to 7726.

You can report fake emails by forwarding to report@phishing.gov.uk

Dvsa notice for you: You have a parking penalty charge due on 2024/9/30. If you do not pay your fine on time, Your car may be banned from driving, you might have to pay more, or you could be taken to court. Please enter your license plate in the link after reading the information, Check and pay parking penalty charge.

Thank you again for your cooperation. Dvsa.

If you have been a victim of any type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and reporting to Report Fraud at [Reporting cyber crime and fraud or phishing attempts - Report Fraud](#) or call 0300 123 2040.

Find out more by visiting our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#) and also from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm



**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.

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Courier Fraud

Last week we received reports of criminals impersonating Police officers and calling residents in Ramsgate, Herne Bay, Hythe, Ashford and Sevenoaks.

Residents were being told:

- Their bank account has been compromised.
- Their card needs replacing.
- A family member has been arrested.
- They must buy gold.
- A courier will collect their card, cash, or gold.

These are scams.

The police will never ask for your financial details over the phone or send someone to collect your card, cash, or valuables.

Watch how this scam works: https://loom.ly/OGG4H_c

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Number spoofing & voice cloning

Almost every scam call you get will be the work of number spoofing. This is when scammers manipulate the real number they are calling you from, usually to make it look like you are being called from a local and therefore more trusted number.

Phone networks recently agreed to roll out upgrades to prevent foreign callers from spoofing UK numbers. Sadly, scammers always adapt to changes and developments, and it is likely they will find loopholes. They may even ramp up efforts in voice cloning technology to make calls sound more official, convincing and trustworthy, so the number they are calling from does not matter.

Fraudsters may clone the voices of professional figures, such as bank staff, HMRC employees and tech support staff, to appear legitimate. This is especially likely as AI content generators, including voice and vocal creators, become more accessible.

If you receive an unsolicited call, then follow the ABC of fraud awareness,

- Never ASSUME or BELIEVE a call is genuine and ALWAYS confirm the identity of the caller.
- Report unexpected calls: If you receive a call from someone claiming to be a police officer or any other organisation, take their details and end the call. Then call back using a different phone if available on a trusted number.
- Stay informed: Keep up with the latest news and advice about fraud, its types, and how to report it.

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Rogue Trader Alert

We have received reports of doorstep criminals active in Maidstone, Gillingham, Chatham and Rochester. Never respond to cold callers! You will pay an excessive cost for unnecessary and poor-quality work.

Please warn your vulnerable friends and family to be alert.

You can:

- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you
- Get three written quotes
- Ask family and friends for recommendations
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand and never pay in full until you are completely satisfied with the work.

If you need work done on your home or garden use a safe, local trader from KCC Trading Standards Checked: [Trading Standards Checked](#)

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BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR FAKE BANK NOTES

We have recently been made aware of increase in counterfeit bank notes in circulation.

The notes have been used to pay for good in shops, pay for taxis and pay for goods being purchased via online marketplaces.

One victim sold a mobile phone on social media and when they took the money to pay into their Bank account were informed that it was all counterfeit.

So far fake £5, £10 and £20 notes have been used.

Some key things to look out for include -

- **HOLOGRAM IMAGE CHANGE** - Tilt the note from side to side. Check the words change between the value of the note and pounds.
- **SEE THROUGH WINDOW** - check the foil is gold on the front of £5 and £10 notes, gold and blue on the front of £20 notes and silver on the back of all notes.



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