

# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## Romance Fraud

This week marked Romance Fraud awareness week. Over £106M was lost to Romance Fraud last year in the UK.

### But what is it?

- Romance fraud usually involves fraudsters creating fake online personas to gain someone's trust and affection through the guise of a romantic relationship, with the goal of exploiting them for financial gain.
- Romance fraudsters use language to manipulate, persuade and exploit. They work hard to make sure that when they ask for money, and require urgency or secrecy from the victim, it does not set off alarm bells.
- They will also masquerade as celebrities, making contact via social media platforms, like Facebook.



STOP! THINK FRAUD

Talk to friends and family: Be wary if you meet someone online who asks you not to tell anyone about them, especially if they're also asking you for money.

### How to Protect Yourself

- Never send money: If you are in a relationship with someone you have only met online, any requests for money should ring an alarm bell. However sad or urgent their story is, never send money (that includes vouchers, cryptocurrency or money for investments). Report anyone who asks for money to the dating service immediately.
- Get to know the person, not the profile: Treat people as you would if meeting in person, by asking questions and taking your time. Check the person online using Google image search or TinEye to see if their profile pictures can be found elsewhere online. Be cautious about how much information you share and keep your social media accounts private and secure.
- Talk to friends and family: Sometimes a second opinion can really help if you are uncertain about something, such as being asked for money by someone you are in an online relationship with. Be wary if you meet someone online who asks you not to tell anyone about them.

## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

If you have been a victim of any 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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](http://Advice about fraud | Kent Police)

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](http://Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams)



**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 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

Again, we have seen attacks across Kent, in particular Canterbury.

However, what is Courier fraud?

The scam can change from having a family member arrested and you need to call 999 or that fraud has taken place on your account. They may tell you to buy gold, jewellery or watches, which they send a courier to collect or even ask you post it.

Some Kent residents have had thousands of pounds stolen this week.

The Police never telephone and ask your bank card and pin number to be collected by a courier, withdraw cash or buy gold to assist in an investigation.

Remember the ABC of Scam Awareness and Never Assume or Believe a call is genuine and always Confirm. If you get an expected call from someone claiming to be Police or any other organisation, then take their details and end the call. Then call back using a different phone if available. If another phone is not available, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected and then ring 101.

Never call a number they have supplied and never ring 999 whilst still on the call with them. You must always disconnect the call first before ringing 101.

Watch - Courier Fraud, how the scam works: [Courier Fraud Warning: Stay Wise, Don't Compromise](#)



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## Crypto Currency Scams

Investment, in particular Crypto Currency fraud see's some of the largest losses to victims in Kent.

However, what is it?

- Cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency designed to work as a medium of exchange. Cryptocurrencies are known for their market volatility, so the value of investor's assets go up and down quickly. As more people have invested their money in cryptocurrencies, criminals have capitalised on this as an opportunity to commit fraud.
- Criminals advertise schemes promising, in some cases, high returns through cryptocurrency investing or mining. Frequently advertised on social media, criminals try to lure you in with adverts offering easy money quickly to obtain your money or personal information.
- One common tactic used to defraud victims is the use of celebrity endorsements. Criminals will present professional and credible looking online adverts, send emails and create websites to advertise fake investment opportunities, including cryptocurrency. Often, fake testimonials are accompanied with a picture of a well-known figure to help the investment seem legitimate.

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What can you do?

- Do not be rushed into making an investment.
- Seek independent financial advice first, e.g., from your bank.
- Check if the company is registered with the FCA.

Learn more at - [ScamSmart - Avoid investment and pension scams | FCA](#)

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## Sim Swapping alert – But what is it?

Sim swap fraud happens when criminals transfer your phone number to their SIM card. This gives them control of your phone number, so they can receive your calls and texts. Fraudsters can then use two-factor authentication (2FA) to change your passwords and access emails and accounts.

Nationally and in Kent it one of the fastest growing frauds.

Follow these tips to stay safe.

- Protect your personal information: never share valuable information like your bank account details or passwords. Ignore unexpected requests for your details.
- Set up a PIN or password with your phone provider: ask your provider to set up a unique PIN or password on your account, needed to approve any account changes.
- Use social media wisely: avoid sharing details such as your phone number, date of birth and answers to common security questions.
- Monitor your accounts: regularly check your bank accounts and credit reports for strange transactions or activities. Set up alerts for any significant changes to your accounts.
- Check with your Bank about setting up biometrics: this will add an extra level of security to your account.

## How to spot SIM swapping

Contact your phone provider and bank if you spot any of these signs.

- Sudden loss of service: if your phone suddenly loses service and you cannot make or receive calls or texts, it could be a sign that a criminal moved your number to another SIM card.
- Notifications of suspicious activity: if you receive log in or SIM activation notifications which was not you, it could be a sign that criminals are trying to move your number to a new SIM.
- Loss of access to your accounts: if you cannot access your email, bank, or social media accounts, it could be a sign that a criminal has taken control of it.
- Unauthorised transactions: if you spot payments on your account that you do not remember making, it could be a sign that a criminal has accessed your account.

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## Rogue Trader Alert – Can you help?

**Four suspects have been arrested following alleged rogue trading in Canterbury as officers appeal for further potential victims to come forward.**

Suspicion was roused regarding work carried out on a property in the St Stephen's area of the city in September 2025.

### Investigation

It is reported that residents were approached by traders at their home address and repairs were discussed.

Extensive work to the residence was agreed. The job was conducted by a group of men hired by the traders, to whom a large sum of money was handed over.

The home callers returned at a later date and reportedly suggested that the property required additional unconnected repairs, for which a high price was also quoted.

It was later established that the original work already completed was unnecessary and the price charged was excessive.

### Arrests made.

On 30 September 2025, officers arrested two men from Maidstone, aged 52 and 35, and two men from Ashford, aged 48 and 23, on suspicion of fraud. They have since been bailed.

## APPEAL

An investigation is ongoing and detectives are keen to hear from anyone who may be able to assist their enquiries, including further victims.

Detective Sergeant Katie Diprose said: "The circumstances reported in this case are quite specific and we are particularly keen to hear from anyone in the county who recalls a recent similar experience."

**Those with relevant information should contact Kent Police on [01843 222289](tel:01843222289) quoting 46/169243/25.**

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