Kent Fraud Alert System

TAKE FIVE TO STOP FRAUD™

URGENT KFAS ALERT: Fraudsters Posing as Police Target Cryptocurrency Holders

Fraudsters are increasingly impersonating police officers and convincing victims that their cryptocurrency is at risk. In some cases, criminals are using the names, rank, collar numbers and workplace details of genuine police officers to appear credible. Victims are then instructed to transfer their cryptocurrency into a so-called "safe wallet" controlled by the fraudsters, resulting in significant financial losses.



How the Scam Works

Victims receive an unexpected telephone call from someone claiming to be a police officer investigating fraud, money laundering or criminal activity linked to their cryptocurrency account.

To gain trust, the caller may provide a crime reference number, police station details, collar number or the name of a genuine serving police officer. In some cases, victims are encouraged to search online where they may find the genuine officer's details, further convincing them that the caller is legitimate.

The fraudster then claims that the victim's cryptocurrency holdings are at risk from cybercriminals, corrupt employees or an ongoing criminal investigation. To "protect" the assets, the victim is instructed to transfer their cryptocurrency into a secure or "safe" police wallet until the investigation is complete.

Once the cryptocurrency has been transferred, it is under the control of the criminals and is often moved rapidly through multiple digital wallets, making recovery extremely difficult.

Warning Signs

- An unexpected call from someone claiming to be a police officer.
- A caller providing the name, rank, collar number or workplace details of a genuine police officer.
- Being told your cryptocurrency holdings are at risk.
- Instructions to transfer cryptocurrency to a "safe wallet", "secure wallet" or "police wallet".
- Pressure to act quickly or keep the matter secret.
- Requests not to speak to family members, your cryptocurrency provider or your bank.
- Being asked to disclose wallet details, recovery phrases, passwords or authentication codes.

Protect Yourself

- Remember: The police will **never** ask you to transfer cryptocurrency to a safe wallet.

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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- The police will **never** ask you to move, withdraw or protect funds as part of an investigation.
- Never assume a caller is genuine simply because they know the details of a serving police officer.
- Never share your cryptocurrency wallet credentials, seed phrase, passwords or security codes with anyone.
- If you receive a call like this, end the conversation immediately.
- If a caller claims to be a police officer, independently verify the contact by calling **101** and asking to speak to the officer via force control room channels.
- Speak to friends and family members who may hold cryptocurrency and ensure they are aware of this scam.



Criminals can make it appear that they are calling from a genuine police number and use the details of genuine police officers. No police officer will ever ask you to transfer cryptocurrency to a "safe wallet".

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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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



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KFAS ALERT: Fraudsters Impersonating the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)

There have been some reports from across the UK indicate that fraudsters are impersonating representatives of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in attempts to steal cash, bank cards and valuables from members of the public. Criminals are using increasingly sophisticated tactics, including official-looking documents and branded messages, to convince victims that the contact is genuine.



In reported cases, victims receive an unexpected telephone call from someone claiming to work for the FCA. During the conversation, the caller may state that there is a problem with the victim's finances, investments or bank account and that urgent action is required. To reinforce the deception, the fraudster may send follow-up WhatsApp messages containing FCA branding, identification cards or documentation that appears professional and convincing.

Victims are then persuaded to withdraw large sums of cash, hand over payment cards or surrender valuables for supposed safekeeping or examination. Arrangements are subsequently made for the items to be collected from the victim's address, sometimes using courier or taxi services. Once collected, the property is stolen and often unrecoverable.

Protect Yourself

- The FCA will never ask you to withdraw cash or hand over valuables.
- Never provide your bank card, PIN number or online banking credentials to anybody.
- Do not trust documents or identification sent electronically without independent verification.
- If contacted unexpectedly, end the call and verify the organisation using official contact details.
- Speak to a trusted friend or family member before making financial decisions under pressure.

Remember: No genuine regulator, law enforcement agency or financial institution will arrange for money, bank cards or valuables to be collected from your home.

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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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KFAS ALERT: Beware Fraud Recovery Scams

Fraud recovery scams continue to be reported across the UK, with criminals specifically targeting people who have previously lost money to scams. Fraudsters exploit victims hopes of recovering their losses and can cause significant further harm by persuading them to make additional payments.



Typically, victims are contacted by individuals claiming to represent legal firms, government agencies, financial regulators or specialist recovery companies. The fraudsters often appear knowledgeable about a victim's previous losses and may even provide convincing documentation, official-sounding titles or references to ongoing investigations. This information is frequently used to build trust and create the impression that funds have been recovered on the victim's behalf.

The victim is informed that compensation, recovered investments or seized criminal funds are waiting to be released. However, before the money can be transferred, they are told they must first pay administration fees, legal costs, insurance charges or taxes. Once payment has been made, further demands often follow, or all contact ceases entirely.

Those who have been defrauded previously should be aware that criminals frequently share victim details, making them attractive targets for repeat fraud.

Protect Yourself

- Be suspicious of any unsolicited offer to recover money lost to fraud.
- Never pay upfront fees in order to receive compensation or recovered funds.
- Seek advice from a trusted family member or friend before proceeding.

If somebody unexpectedly offers to recover money you have previously lost to fraud, and asks for payment to do so, it is a scam.

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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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KFAS ALERT: HMRC Self-Assessment Scam Warning

With the Self-Assessment tax return season underway, reports from around the UK indicate that fraudsters are impersonating HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to steal personal, financial and banking information. Criminals commonly exploit tax deadlines and refund expectations to create a sense of urgency and encourage victims to act without thinking.



Victims receive emails, text messages or telephone calls claiming to be from HMRC. The communication may state that the recipient is entitled to a tax refund, has overpaid tax or needs to resolve an issue with their tax account. To make the scam appear legitimate, fraudsters often use convincing branding and links that direct victims to websites designed to closely resemble official government services.

Once on these fraudulent websites, victims may be asked to enter personal details, banking information, passwords or payment card details. This information can then be used to commit identity theft, financial fraud or unauthorised transactions. Some messages also threaten penalties, legal action or account suspension if immediate action is not taken.

Protect Yourself

- Be cautious of unexpected tax-related emails, texts or telephone calls.
- Do not click links contained within unsolicited messages.
- Access tax services directly through GOV.UK.
- Never provide financial information unless you are certain the website is genuine.
- Verify suspicious communications through official HMRC channels.

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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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KFAS ALERT: Be Vigilant of Unexpected Calls Claiming to be from Age UK

We have recently been made aware of two incidents involving unsolicited telephone calls from individuals claiming to represent Age UK. Whilst the legitimacy of these calls cannot be confirmed, the circumstances raise concerns that criminals may be impersonating trusted organisations in an attempt to gather information about potential victims.



In one incident, a resident received a telephone call from a person claiming to be from Age UK who began asking questions about damp and the condition of the property.

In a separate incident, another resident was asked whether they owned their home before the caller ended the conversation.

Although the purpose of these calls is unknown, fraudsters and rogue traders are known to contact members of the public whilst posing as reputable organisations in order to collect information about property ownership, living arrangements, vulnerabilities or potential home improvement opportunities.

Protect Yourself

- Be cautious of unexpected calls, even when the caller claims to represent a well-known or trusted organisation.
- Never provide personal, financial or security information to an unsolicited caller.
- Be wary of callers asking questions about your home, living arrangements, finances or personal circumstances.
- If you are unsure whether a caller is genuine, end the call and contact the organisation directly using a trusted telephone number obtained independently.
- Do not feel pressured into making decisions, agreeing to appointments or providing information during an unexpected call.
- Consider discussing unexpected contacts with a trusted friend, family member or neighbour before taking any action.

Criminals may impersonate trusted charities, businesses and organisations to gain information or identify potential victims. If you receive an unexpected call asking personal questions, stop and disconnect the call.

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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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