

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Good News Story

Three people have been charged, 41 arrests made and at least £50,000 has been prevented from being paid out by victims across Kent as part of a crackdown on fraud. Throughout February, rapid work by Kent Police officers saw criminals scuppered in their attempts to defraud people through different methods including romance fraud, unnecessary roof and building repairs and postal scams. Criminal networks which profit by targeting and pressuring vulnerable victims were dismantled, leading to positive results and the ongoing work will help to keep the county safe.

During February:

- A total of £3,000 was saved from being lost to romance fraud by intervening and supporting victims.
- Officers disrupted four parcel delivery frauds by scammers, which led to £7,500 of goods being returned to victims of crime.
- Over £10,000 was seized during arrests and warrants conducted by police.
- A further £270,000 paid by victims through their bank accounts to fraudsters was recovered as officers guided them through the refund process with their banks.
- As part of the work to disrupt rogue traders, 15 vehicles also were seized as well as a pressure washer.

Three men were also arrested on Wednesday 4 February in relation to a report that roof tiles of a Maidstone property had been tampered with on Wednesday 21 January in order to convince the occupant that urgent costly remedial work was needed. Two 30 year old men, **Jesse Harber**, of School Lane in Swanley, and **Dillon Lemon** of Wordsworth Way, Dartford, as well as 35 year old **Thomas Harber**, of Darenth Wood Road, Darenth, were each charged with fraud. All three appeared at Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court on Friday 6 February and were bailed. The case will next be heard at Woolwich Crown Court on Friday 6 March.

Detective Inspector Ian Sanderson said:

'Fraudsters target the most vulnerable people in our communities, they exploit those vulnerabilities to steal hard-earned money, often life savings. They do this because they think it is 'easy' crime that will not be detected. But as this month-long operation has shown, we will not stand for this type of offending in Kent, and those who choose to do it will be caught and brought to justice.'

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**

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Fraud Alert: Fake Google Security Check Scam

A new scam is going around where criminals pretend to be Google. Their goal is to trick you into installing a fake “security app” that steals your personal information.

What the scam looks like

Scammers send you:

- Emails that look like they are from Google
- Fake security warnings
- Pop ups saying something like “Urgent: Protect your Google Account now”

These messages lead you to a website that looks almost exactly like a real Google page, but it is fake.

What the fake page does

The page walks you through a fake “4 step security check.”

At the end, it tries to make you install a fake Google app.

If installed, this fake app can:

- Steal your contacts and location
- Read what you copy and paste
- Grab one time codes (OTPs)
- Capture passwords and crypto wallet information
- Use your device to hide the scammer’s online activity

Once installed, it even hides the website address bar so it looks like a real Google app.

Why this scam is dangerous

- It looks incredibly realistic
- It does not hack you—YOU are tricked into giving permission
- It can keep spying even after you close the browser

How to protect yourself

Google will NEVER ask you to do a security check through:

- Random pop ups
- Text messages
- Unfamiliar websites

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If any website or message asks you to:

- Install a “Google security app”
- Turn on notifications
- Share contacts or location
- Enter your password on a page you did not expect

Close it immediately.

Quick safety tip

- Always check the website address before entering your Google login details.

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](#)

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Fake Cloud Storage Text Messages

We are issuing an important warning about a recent scam involving fake text messages and emails claiming to be from Apple. These messages often say there is a problem with your iCloud storage and ask you to click a link to “upgrade” or “verify” your account.

Please do NOT click on these links. They are fraudulent.

What the scam looks like

You may receive a message that:

- Appears to be from Apple
- Claims your iCloud storage is full or your account is at risk
- Contains a link that looks urgent or threatening

The link does not lead to Apple. It takes you to a fake website designed to steal your personal information, such as:

- Your Apple ID and password
- Your credit or debit card details
- Access to your actual iCloud account, photos, and files

Scammers may then use this information to lock you out of your own account or make fraudulent purchases in your name.

How to spot a fake message

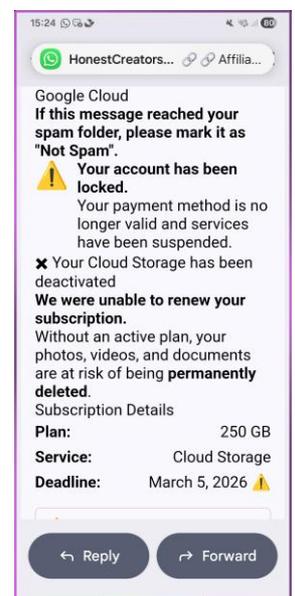
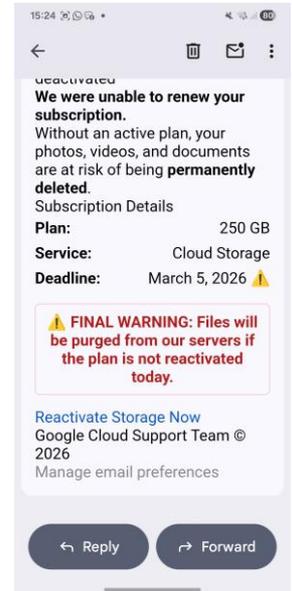
Look out for these warning signs:

- Generic greetings such as “Dear user” instead of your name
- Urgent or threatening language designed to panic you
- Unexpected payment requests about storage
- Spelling mistakes or odd wording
- Suspicious links that do not include *apple.com*

What to do if you receive one

- Do not click any links
- Do not reply to the message
- Delete it immediately
- If you are unsure, go directly to *icloud.com* by typing it into your web browser — never use a link from a message

If you believe you may have entered your details into a fake website, change your Apple ID password straight away and contact your bank if you provided payment information.



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Urgent Scam Alert Romance and Relationship Fraud

We are seeing an increase in reporting of these types of scams.

Criminals are currently using sophisticated tactics, including AI generated “deepfake” video calls and fake investment opportunities, to target individuals looking for connection online.

Four signs you are being targeted

- The Love Bomb – They shower you with intense affection, declare love within days and use phrases like, “I’ve never felt this way before” and “You’re the only one that understand me.” They will also ask you to keep the relationship quiet and not to tell family or friends, as they “will not understand.”
- The Platform Shift – They immediately pressure you to move the conversation from a dating site to encrypted apps like WhatsApp, Telegram or Signal to avoid security monitoring.
- The Perpetual Crisis – They claim to be working overseas (e.g. military, oil rigs, medical or a CEO) and repeatedly cancel plans to meet due to a sudden emergency.
- The financial Hook – Once trust is built, they ask for money for medical bills, travel costs or a guaranteed crypto investment etc.

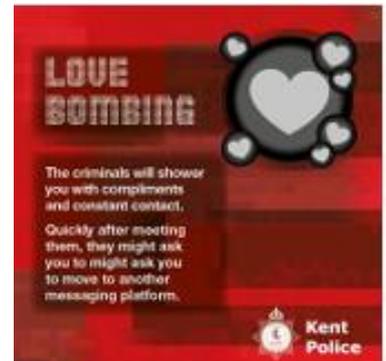
How to protect yourself

- Reverse Image Search – use google images or TinEye to check if their profile photo is stolen from someone else.
- Verify With Task – Ask them to perform a specific action during a video call (e.g. touch your nose with your ring finger) to bypass AI deepfakes.
- Never Send Money – A genuine person will Never ask you for money, gift cards, crypto if you have not met in person.
- Stay On the App – Keep all conversations on the dating platform where you met.
- Speak To a Trusted Person – Tell someone you trust, ask them for their opinion on the profile.

“If this applies to you, then stop all contact immediately and block them on all platforms.”

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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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