

# Kent Fraud Alert System



**TO STOP FRAUD™**

## WhatsApp Scams

The criminals are still at it with this scam and it has not gone away. Yesterday a Kent resident forwarded the below text message to me that they had received.

“Hello mum, this is my new number. My old phone no longer works. Can you send this number a message on WhatsApp? I can be reached here. this is my new number – (number removed).”

The text was designed to deceive the person into then talking on WhatsApp, where the criminals would have subsequently requested the transfer of money to them, under the guise of being a family member.

The intended victim followed our scam awareness rules of ABC and telephoned the family member on the number that they had for them (not the new number) and confirmed it was not them that had sent the text.

Always Confirm and never Assume or Believe that a message is genuine.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other 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.

## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



### Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest  
scam advice:   
**@KentPoliceECU**



**Kent  
Police**

## Contacting 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 deaf or speech impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**

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## Unsolicited Phone Call

A Kent resident has reported receiving a suspicious call from someone purporting to be from a company that is checking on fuse boxes. They stated that new government legislation had been brought on the 1<sup>st</sup> March requiring any fuse box older than 5 years in a property needed to be checked. The caller was able to confirm the peoples name and address. The caller was told that they needed time to check this and asked them for their number, they then put the phone down. It was a scam.

A fuse box does not need to be replaced due to its age, if and when the installation undergoes an electrical inspection and test and its then found to be none compliant with the minimum requirements of the British Standards then and only then will it need replacing.

The person receiving this call applied the principles of ABC and stated that they wanted to Confirm that the caller and what they were saying was genuine.

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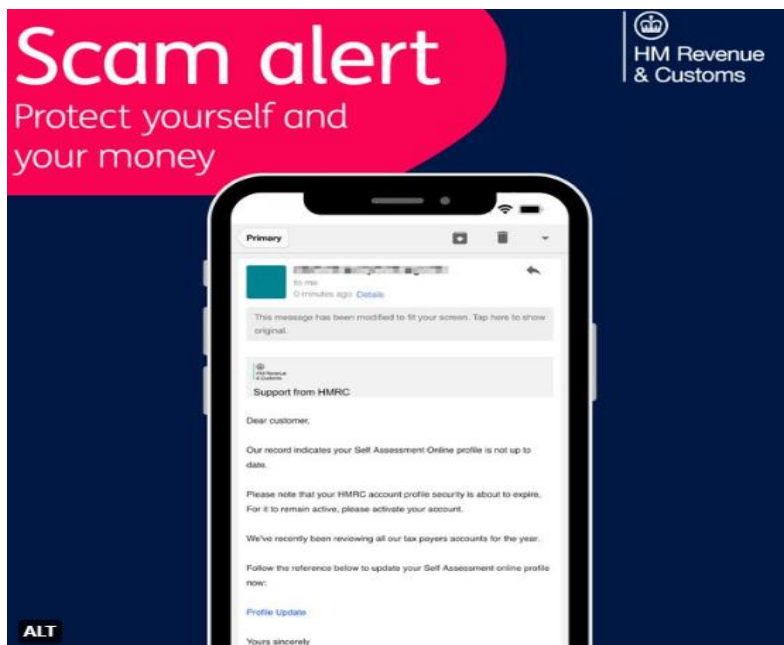
## HMRC Scam

HMRC have identified a new email scam, not offering you a tax refund but asking you to click a link to 'update your records' which are 'out of date'. One version refers to your 'Self-Assessment Online profile'. The scam is targeting Government Gateway log-ins credentials.

For expert advice on how to protect yourself and your money, visit: [Identify tax scam phone calls, emails and text messages - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/identify-tax-scam-phone-calls-emails-and-text-messages)

Also remember the following –

- HMRC will never ask for personal or financial information via email or text.
- If you receive any communication through WhatsApp claiming to be from HMRC it is a scam, as they will never use WhatsApp.
- HMRC will never ask you to pay with gift or payment vouchers.
- Do not open any links or reply to a text message claiming to be from HMRC that offers you a tax refund in exchange for personal or financial details.
- HMRC will never leave a voicemail threatening legal action.
- HMRC will not call you threatening arrest.



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If you get any calls. Emails or texts like this, it's a SCAM.



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## Pig Butchering Scams

There has been a lot in media this week about these types of scams, which are basically another form of Romance scam.

How does it work?

The name was given to these types of scams by the fraudsters and basically relates to “fattening up” the victim before scamming them for all of their money with an investment scam opportunity. They will normally meet the victim on an online dating platform and after a few chats suggest they continue to chat via a private messaging service. Then when the criminals think the opportunity is right, they will claim they have been successful investing in some type of scheme E.G. Crypto Currency and will offer to invest the victim’s money for them. If it is a crypto scam, they will sometimes show the victim a crypto trading platform controlled by the criminals and encourage them to sign up and begin to deposit funds. However, it is all a SCAM.

Remember, it is important that no matter how long you have been speaking to someone online and how much you think you trust them, if you have not met them in person then you do not:

- Send them any money
- Allow them access to your bank account
- Transfer money on their behalf
- Take a loan out for them
- Provide copies of your personal documents such as passports or driving licenses
- Invest your own money on their behalf or on their advice
- Purchase and send the codes on gift cards from Amazon or iTunes
- Agree to receive and/or send parcels on their behalf (laptops, mobile phones etc.)

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