

# Kent Fraud Alert System



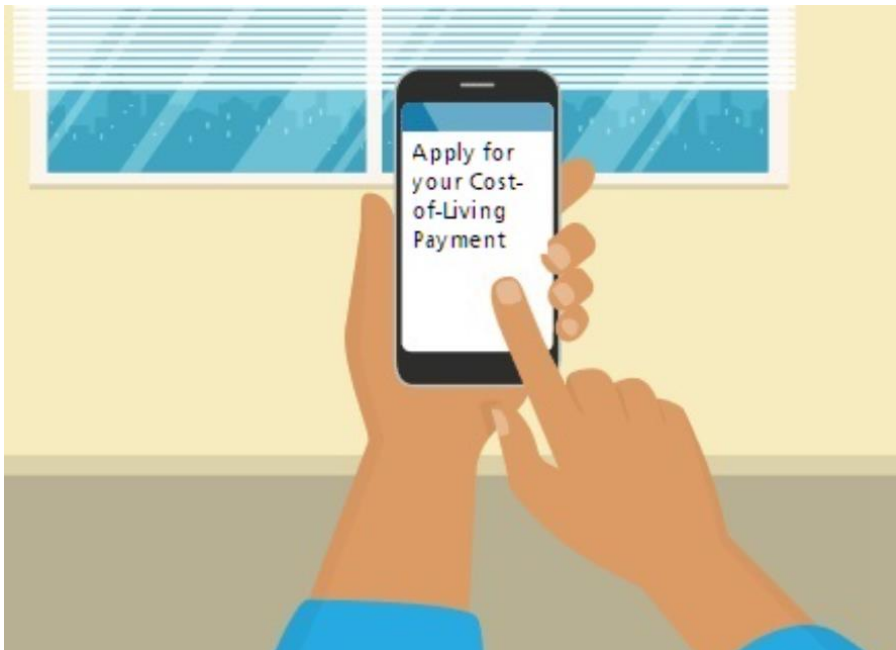
**TO STOP FRAUD™**

## Cost of Living Payments

Payments began on Tuesday for households entitled to receive the £301 cost of living cash boost. If you are entitled to these payment's, you will receive them automatically, so if you get an email, text or other message instructing you to apply, pay a fee or reveal confidential info, it's a SCAM.

You can forward suspicious emails to [Report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:Report@phishing.gov.uk) and suspicious text messages to 7726 (SPAM).

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**

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)



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## White Goods Insurance Scams

How does the scam work?

Insurance scams for white goods involve a criminal cold calling a person claiming that their insurance for their white goods, such as washing machine or fridge, has expired and they need to renew it. The criminal then asks the victim for their bank details so they can make the payment. In reality, they will use these details to commit fraud. Even if the victim is suspicious and questions the caller, the criminal will try to convince them that they need the cover.

If you get a call like this, just disconnect the call immediately.

## Protect yourself

- Be suspicious of any unexpected phone calls, text messages or emails that are trying to sell you something. Especially if they contact you persistently and use time-limited offers to try and force you into deciding quickly. No legitimate company will rush or pressure you to make a financial transaction on the spot.
- Speak to someone you trust before purchasing anything. Getting a second opinion from a family member or friend could help prevent you having your money stolen.
- Never assume a phone call is authentic just because the caller knows your basic details such as your name or address. Criminals will go to great lengths to make themselves seem legitimate and trustworthy. They can even copy and impersonate the phone numbers of real companies. If you have any suspicions, it's OK to take your time, challenge the caller or even just hang up.



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## Vehicle Theft

Although not a fraud related matter, it is a crime affecting many of you that own motor vehicles.

Vehicle theft is an increasing crime trend across the UK and Kent. The following methods are being used -

- Specialist lock-pick to gain entry to vehicle so a programmer can be plugged into the onboard computer
- Relay attack – using a transmitter outside the house, picking the signal up off keys. Applies to keyless vehicles
- Using transponders to override immobilisation features, in combination with an onboard computer car programming device to start the engine



There are ways you can prevent becoming a victim of this crime:

- Use a faraday bag or place keys in a metal tin, to prevent the transmitter working in the case of keyless models
- Ensure the vehicle is locked and keep in garage if you have one
- Keep the car keys hidden in property in case of burglaries
- Consider using a steering wheel, gear lever or clutch pedal security device
- Ensure you carry out checks on a used vehicle before buying [Check a used vehicle you're buying - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

For further advice - [Preventing car and vehicle theft | Crime Prevention | Kent Police](#)



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## TV Licence Phishing Scams.

10 days ago, I reported to be alert to fake emails impersonating TV Licencing. Today Action Fraud have reported that in the last 2 weeks they have received **3,455 reports of this scam nationally**. Please be on the lookout for these fake emails stating your licence is due to expire or there has been a problem with your payment. The email will ask you to click on a link and will direct you to a fake website, where the criminals will look to steal your data and your money.

If you receive any suspicious emails, then forward them to [Report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:Report@phishing.gov.uk).

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

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## SCAM: Fake TV Licensing emails reported 3,455 times

Action Fraud has received 3,455 reports in two weeks relating to fake emails purporting to be from TV Licensing. The emails state that the recipient's TV License is about to expire, or that there was an issue with their latest payment. The links provided in the email lead to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal personal and financial details.

If you have doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. **Don't** use the numbers or address in the message – use the details from their official website. Your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email.

Spotted a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)



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