Kent Fraud Alert System

The use of AI to commit fraud

One of the downsides of Artificial Intelligence is that it makes it easier for criminals to defraud people. I have been monitoring various media streams and I am aware that this is likely to be used to impersonate famous people and to create videos endorsing fake investment schemes on social media. These videos will give an element of authenticity and are intended to make people trust what they are seeing.

My advice in relation to this is to be cautious in investing in schemes promoted on social media and to apply ABC and never Assume or Believe that what you are seeing is genuine and Confirm, by carrying out your research and seek independent financial advice, which in most cases is your Bank.

If an offer is too good to be true, then it is.

For more information and advice click on the below link from Action Fraud -

Investment fraud | Action Fraud

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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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Kent Police

Contacting 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 deaf or speech impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**
www.kent.police.uk

Kent Fraud Alert System

SCAM WARNING

Action Fraud have received over 268 reports about a WhatsApp account takeover scam targeting community and religious group's.

The fraud often begins when a member of the group receives a WhatsApp audio call from the fraudster, pretending, or claiming, to be a member of the group. This is done to gain the individual's trust, and often the scammer will use a false profile picture and/or display a name, so at first glance it would appear to be a genuine member of the group.

The fraudster will then call the victim and say they are sending a one-time passcode which will allow them to join an upcoming video call for group members. The scammer then asks the victim to share this passcode with them so they can be "registered" for the video call. What's really happening is that the scammer is asking for a registration code to register the victim's WhatsApp account to a new device where they then "port" their WhatsApp profile over.

Once the fraudster has access to the victim's WhatsApp account, they will enable two-step verification which makes it impossible for the victim to access their account. The scammer will then message other members of the group, or friends and family in the victim's contacts, asking them to transfer money urgently as they are in desperate need of help.

- What can you do to avoid being a victim?
- Never share your account's two-factor authentication (2FA) code (that's the six digit code you receive via SMS).
- Set up two-step verification to give an extra layer of protection to your account.
- Tap Settings > Account >Two-step verification > Enable.
- THINK. CALL. If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.

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Ticket Fraud

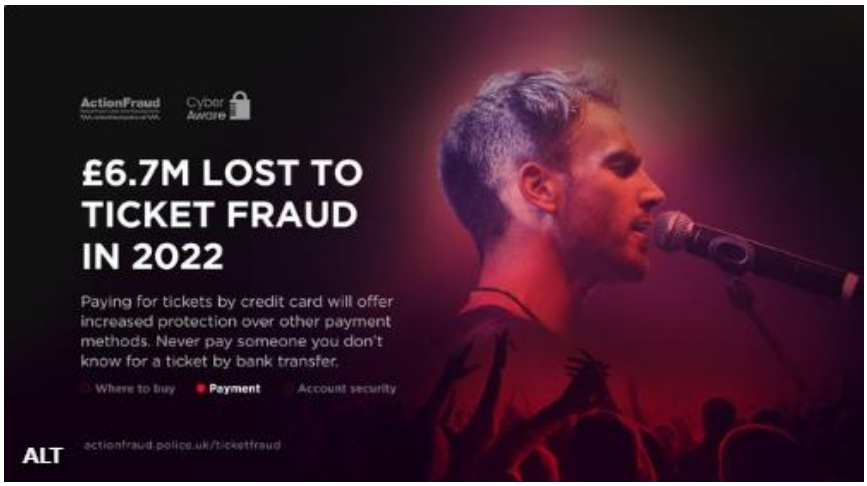
This week I received a report from a Kent resident for the following ticket scam on social media. They stated that they had purchased some concert tickets via social media at a cost of £160. They were subsequently informed that the event had been cancelled. However, when they checked they found that there was never an event scheduled. Additionally, when they attempted to get a refund, they were unable to do so and that the company named had ceased trading in 2015 and that the criminals had impersonated the dissolved company.

Always take care when buying tickets via social media and if you can, use a well known and reputable ticket exchange. Additionally using a credit card will offer more protection as opposed to a debit card, bank transfer or other money transfer services as a payment method.

For more information on spotting the signs of ticket fraud etc. please view the below link from Action fraud.

Ticket fraud | Action Fraud

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 or call 0300 123 2040.



Kent Police

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Kent Fraud Alert System

Courier Fraud

I have noted an increase in Courier Fraud reporting this week with criminals impersonating Police. Several victims reported that they were requested to ring back by calling 999 by the criminals but unfortunately, the criminals had not disconnected from the call and the victims did not realise the criminals were still waiting on the line.

The Police will never call and ask you to withdraw cash or request that they collect your cards and pin by courier. If you get a call like this, it is a SCAM.

If you do decide to ring back, never use a number that they have supplied and always use a different telephone to the one which you were originally called on. If there is not another telephone available, then wait 5 minutes and then ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected.

Please make elderly family members, friends and neighbours aware of this and please view the below very short video which shows you exactly how these criminals work,

Courier Fraud Warning: Stay Wise, Don't Compromise - YouTube

Kent Police

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