



Keep your money safe

Sussex Police fraud newsletter – October 2016

Scams are fraud and fraud is crime, report it – this is our message for Sussex residents.

Each month, we see fraudsters targeting people across the county by phone, email and face to face in an attempt to defraud them. These 'scammers' are criminals who chose to prey on some of our most vulnerable people. Operation Signature is our answer, working together with our partners to prevent fraud and identify and support our most vulnerable victims.

By its very nature, fraud is constantly evolving and taking on new forms. But be assured that, by following our tips in this newsletter and encouraging family, friends and colleagues to do so too, you will reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

Detective Chief Inspector Tracy Edwards, Operation Signature, Sussex Police

Warning of fraudulent phone calls offering utilities discounts

This month we have received reports from residents getting cold phone calls claiming to be from legitimate companies such as Talk Talk, Sky and British Gas and offering discounts on the customer's bills. They are then asking for bank account details for the purposes of setting up a direct debit.



If you receive a call like this, do **not** give the caller any of your bank details. Legitimate companies will not need any new information from you to discount your existing payments. Following the call, telephone or visit your bank and check that no unusual payments have been taken. Please report any calls which sound similar to Sussex Police or Action Fraud.

Rogue traders continue to target Sussex residents

We continue to receive reports of rogue traders operating in Sussex. Rogue traders often offer gardening work or maintenance services at attractive rates but the quality of work is substandard, unnecessary or overpriced. Anyone with information that could lead to the arrest of any doorstep offender should contact Sussex Police by calling 101 or emailing 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk. If you think a rogue trader is at your door, call 999.

Call blocking devices – only choose those which are ACPO Secured by Design

Fraudsters are targeting Sussex residents asking for money to fit fake call blocking devices. If you wish to install a call blocker to escape nuisance calls, make sure they are approved by 'ACPO Secured by Design' (see the logo to the right). For more details [click here](#).



City of London Police encourage the public to 'beat the boiler rooms'



Action Fraud and City of London Police have released shocking statistics on the scale of investment fraud, calling on the public to be alert to these crimes. Details include:

- 73% of all victims are men
- Their average age is 65 years old
- They mainly live in cities

Click on the image to the left (or [here](#)) to view their campaign video.

Earlier this month, Sussex Police featured on ITV's *Tonight* programme which included a victim of investment fraud and gave guidance on keeping your money safe. More details about the programme can be found [here](#).

West Sussex fraudster ordered to pay back criminal profits

A man who used social media to promote a luxury supercar business, selling cars he did not own or have title to, has been ordered to repay over £92,000. More details of the story can be found [here](#).

Remember: banks and police will NEVER call and ask you to transfer funds to a new account, NEVER collect your cards from your home, NEVER ask you to buy high value goods and NEVER ask you to hand over cards or money.

Keep your money safe with these tips:

- Check people are who they say they are. Not sure? Don't open the door!
- Never send or give money to people you don't know or trust
- Remember to protect your identity – don't share your personal information with unexpected callers
- Beware of email and computer scams. Treat all emails from unknown senders with suspicion and **never** click on links within them
- **Never** share your PIN number or enter your PIN into a telephone
- If in doubt, phone a relative, friend or someone you know personally
- Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it could be fraud.

If you suspect someone you know may be vulnerable to fraud, please share this newsletter with them and encourage them to look at the 'Little Book of Scams', available on the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/z8khtgh>.

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud call Sussex Police on 101 or visit www.sussex.police.uk



If you need to report fraud or attempted fraud, you can do so by contacting Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or by calling 0300 123 2040. You can also read the latest Action Fraud alerts at www.actionfraud.police.uk/news or by following @actionfrauduk on Twitter.