

# Kent Fraud Alert System



**TO STOP FRAUD™**

## Council Tax Banding Scam

I have been contacted by a Kent resident informing me that they have been telephoned and informed by a fraudster that they were being called by them on behalf of their local council, as it been discovered that their property had been put into the wrong tax band of an E when it should have been in band D.

The fraudster stated their tax band will be reduced by approximately £200 per annum and that they were entitled to a refund of approximately £4,000 based on the time they had been resident in the property. However, they went onto state that they could sort this out for them but that there would be a charge of £160 plus VAT. When challenged they gave the name of a company and their company number, which when checked on companies' house relates to a company involved in the repair of communication equipment. This was identified by the intended victim as a scam and they disconnected the call.

Never assume or believe any caller is genuine. Your council would never employ a company like this to act on their behalf, so if unsure, it is important to contact your local Council and discuss this with them.

If you believe that you may have fallen victim to this type of scam, then please contact you Bank immediately and then report to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

## 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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## Microsoft Phishing Email.

Another resident this reported receiving the below phishing email, which asked them to verify their account and ultimately would have led to them being asked to either supply personal data or worse still, could have download malware into their system.

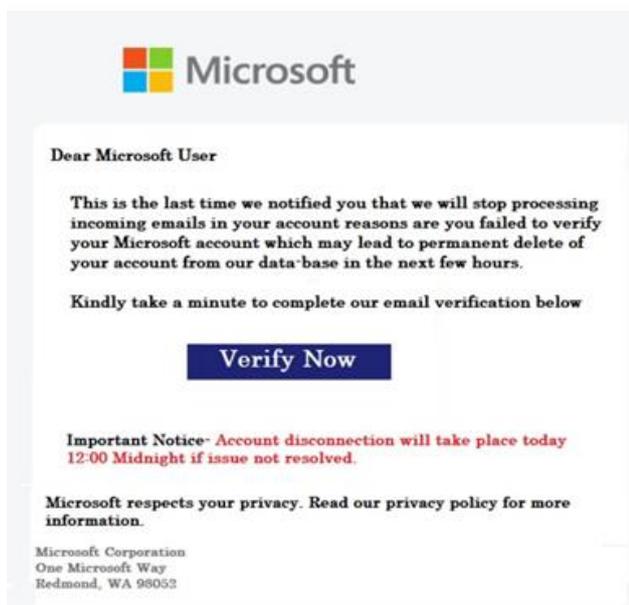
An easy way to spot that this was a scam was the originating email address which belonged to someone with an Hotmail account and nothing to do with Microsoft. As always never click on links contained in unsolicited emails, as it will without a doubt be a scam.

If you receive any suspicious email's then please forward to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

If you believe that you may have fallen victim to this type of scam, then please contact you Bank immediately and then report to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

**From:** Email Verification <[nur-0544@hotmail.com](mailto:nur-0544@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** 04 February 2021 16:52  
**To:** XXXXXXXXX  
**Subject:** Policy of the rules

[Verify Now](#)



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## Fraudsters impersonating Police!!!!!!

The below item is a press release that has been issued by Kent Police. Although this refers to an incident in Dover, we are seeing similar incidents across Kent. So please read and follow the advice from DS Cananur of Kent Police Serious Economic Crime Unit.

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“Residents are being urged to be vigilant of callers claiming to be from the police after a pensioner was defrauded in Dover. The victim, who is in his eighties, received a phone call on Wednesday 10 February 2021 from a man claiming to be from 'Hammersmith Police'. The man claimed police needed help catching criminals and gave the victim a number to ring if he wanted to check the call was legitimate.

### Cold call

The victim called the number, but spoke to another fraudster, who convinced him to transfer two payments totalling more than £15,000 into an account as part of a purported police operation. The fraud was one of five similar calls reported to Kent Police, all to victims in the Dover and Folkestone area, on Wednesday 10 February. In the other incidents, no money was transferred to the caller. All of the incidents are being investigated by Kent Police, who are warning anyone contacted by similar callers not to transfer money and to report it at the first opportunity.

### Advice

*Detective Sergeant Marc Cananur, of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: 'A police officer will never ask you to pay or transfer money over the phone and would never ask you to lie as part of a supposed investigation. 'Never give out your personal information in response to an incoming call, particularly if the caller is asking you to do something that will affect you financially. 'If somebody rings you asking for this information, do not give it to them. Instead, hang up the phone and call a trusted number, if possible from a different phone, or wait at least five minutes to ensure the line has cleared and you are not still talking to the same fraudster or an accomplice. 'Contact your bank immediately if you think you may have been scammed and also report the incident to Action Fraud.'*

Anyone with information about any of the Dover and Folkestone incidents is asked to contact Kent Police on 01843 222289, quoting reference 46/22157/21, or Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.”

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or using the anonymous online format [Crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)



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## Romance Scams

As we are only a few days away from Valentines day, I thought I would take the opportunity to remind you about Romance scams. For the last few days, our colleagues in the City of London Police have been leading a media campaign with advice etc. on these types of scams.

Below is advice on how to avoid becoming a victim and remember the golden rule, “Never send monies to someone you have only ever met on line and who after a short space of time gives you a tale of woe and asks for monetary help.....Just think scam!!!”

Also find attached to the email sending out this week’s alerts is a leaflet that you can share with family and friends and can share on line.

**SWIPE LEFT ON ROMANCE FRAUD**

Over £66m was lost to romance fraud between Aug 2019 and Aug 2020. #LoveNotLies

**DON'T LET YOUR HEART RULE YOUR HEAD.** #LoveNotLies

Online dating? If you haven't met them in person do not:

- Send them any money.
- Purchase and send the codes on gift cards.
- Transfer money on their behalf.
- Take a loan out for them.
- Provide copies of your personal documents such as passports or driving licenses.
- Allow them access to your bank account.
- Invest your own money on their behalf or on their advice.

ActionFraud TO STOP FRAUD

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