

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

New WhatsApp Scam

Action Fraud has received over 60 reports relating to a scam that steals access to a WhatsApp user's account. The scam begins when a criminal gets access to another WhatsApp account which has you listed as a contact. The criminal, posing as your friend or someone that's a member of a WhatsApp group you're in, will then send you seemingly normal messages to try and start a conversation with you.

However, around the same time you will receive a text message from WhatsApp with a six-digit code. This is because the criminal has been trying to login to WhatsApp using your mobile number. The criminal will claim that they sent you their code by accident and ask you to help them by sending it to them. Once the criminal has this code, they can login to your WhatsApp account and lock you out.

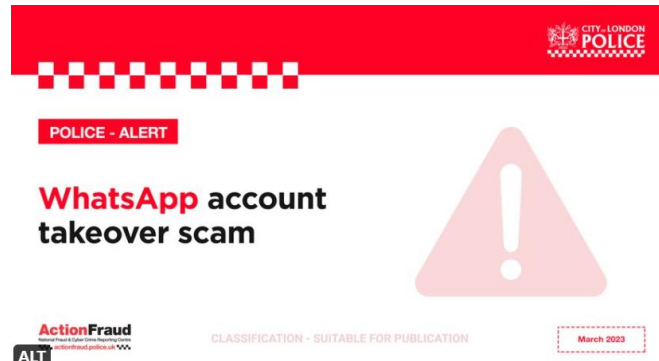
The criminal will then use the same tactic with your WhatsApp contacts to steal more accounts and use them to perpetrate fraud.

What you need to do

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.
- Never share your account's activation code (that's the 6 digit code you receive via SMS)
- You can report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.

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.



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
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**

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Eurovision Ticket Scams

NordVPN has warned fans of Eurovision to be aware of scammers that could be trying to take advantage of those looking to secure tickets. Resale tickets can only be bought on Ticketmaster website so beware of copycat websites and always check you are on the genuine site.

If you would like to know more about ticket scams and how to spot the signs etc. the go to the Action Fraud website [Ticket scams](#) | [Action Fraud](#)

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BE AWARE



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EUROVISION FANS
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Online shopping scams

Did you know that the biggest reported fraud in the UK are online shopping scams? The current cost of living crisis has provided tremendous opportunities to fraudsters both here and abroad to target UK shoppers, including the people of Kent. They will normally advertise with too good to be true offers and request payment via bank transfer.

To assist you in spotting and protecting yourself online, the National Cyber Security Centre have a website dedicated to providing you with advice on how to shop safely and spot a scam website. Please go to the following link for further information –

[Shopping online securely - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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Fraudsters impersonating Mobile Phone Companies

We have received several reports of victims being contacted by fraudsters impersonating mobile phone companies and offering great deals. To make the call sound convincing, the fraudsters can provide details about your current phone and bank account. It is all a **SCAM** and you could end losing money from your account or paying for a phone that you never receive.

If you get a call from someone stating that they are your mobile phone provider, remember the ABC of Scam awareness and never Assume or Believe they are genuine and Confirm, by calling your mobile phone company on a trusted number and not one that is provided by the caller.

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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Check your Password

Check to see if your email password has been compromised by using,

[Have I Been Pwned: Check if your email has been compromised in a data breach](#)

If it has, then by using a combination of 3 random words you can create passwords that are long enough and strong enough to protect you. Avoid words that can be guessed, like your pet's name or birth month. Adding numbers and symbols is a good way to make your password even harder to guess. If you want to be even more secure why not add two factor authentication.

The following takes you to the Microsoft website to explain more -

[What is two-factor authentication \(2FA\)? | Microsoft Security](#)

Additionally, remember to change your password regularly and clear out all those sent emails, as I am sure some will contain ID documents that fraudsters will find very useful.

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