

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Census – 2021

Census Day is coming and Households across the UK are currently receiving letters which include a unique 16-digit code to access the census online.

As always, criminals will view this as an opportunity to commit fraud and will send out phishing emails, text messages and telephone people, to try and obtain your Banking data, PIN number etc.

Action Fraud have prepared some advice for you that you can keep. I have attached a link below which will provide you with further information.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/beware-of-the-census-form-scam>

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers.



Remember, ABC:

-  **never Assume**
-  **never Believe**
-  **always Confirm**

Get the latest scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU

Watch out for scams related to **Census 2021**

-  You will only be contacted about the census via letter - never email, text or phone.
-  When filling out the census you will be asked for personal details such as your date of birth, your occupation and where you live. You will never be asked to provide your national insurance number or financial details.

ActionFraud **CENSUS**
2021

Find out more: www.censuseducation.org.uk



**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   

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Covid Vaccine's

This week the NHS commenced sending out text messages to invite people to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment. This text message will be shown as being sent from 'NHS Vaccine' and will include a link to the NHS.uk website and is genuine.

It is important to remember that the NHS will never ask for payment or banking details. If you receive a text from the NHS asking you to book your vaccine, this will be genuine. Alternatively, if you get any other text messages asking you to pay for a vaccine or requesting financial details, this will be a scam.

If you get a text and you are still unsure, then contact your GP surgery.

If you believe you have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your bank, immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.



Coronavirus: NHS Text Alerts 

- The NHS are trialling a new mobile phone text service, making it easier and more convenient for people to book their life-saving covid vaccine.
- The text message will show as being sent from 'NHSvaccine' and will include a link to the NHS.uk website.
- The NHS will never ask you for payment or banking details. If you are unsure about a text message you have received, you can call 119 to book your appointment.

Learn more: actionfraud.police.uk/vaccine **OFFICIAL** [#coronavirusfrauds](https://twitter.com/coronavirusfrauds)



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Havebeenpwned

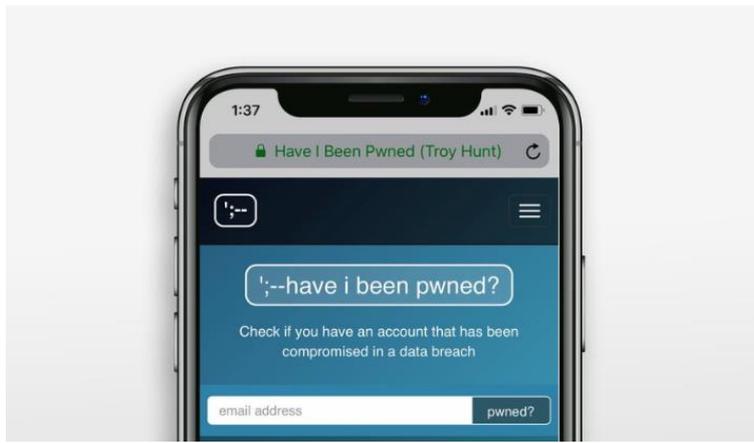
How sure are you that your online accounts have not been hacked? Would you like to check? Even better, would you like to do it for free?

Here's a quick and simple way to check: <https://haveibeenpwned.com>

You can create a strong password for your online accounts by using 3 random words. This will give you a unique password that you will remember and make difficult for hackers to crack.

For more information visit the National Cyber Security Centre web site below. For more top tips and advice on how to stay safe online.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/>



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Courier Fraud

We are still seeing a number of offences each week and would like to remind people what to look out for and how to help protect family and friends from becoming victims.

Courier fraud involves criminals contacting victims and impersonating other types of professional people such as Police officers, Bank Staff or members of the National Crime Agency. They will often say that there is an issue with your bank account, payment card or National Insurance number. They will encourage you to help with an investigation and ask you to take monies out of your bank account or to hand over your card and PIN for a courier to collect.

One of the most popular at present is impersonating the NCA and stating that your National Insurance has been used in crime and you need to pay a fine to the NCA to avoid arrest etc.

It is all a scam, as a police officer, member of the NCA or other law enforcement type organisation, will never ask a member of the public to hand over money and never request banking details or a person's national insurance number or send a courier to collect items. Fraudsters can go to great lengths to appear genuine and often target the elderly or people who they think are vulnerable. There are several precautions you can take which can help reduce your chances of falling victim to this type of offence. I would encourage everyone to take heed of the following advice and share it with friends and family.

- If you receive one of these calls end it immediately.
- Never hand over any money, or other items, to a courier after receiving this type of call.
- If you are not confident a person claiming to be a police officer is genuine, ask to take their details and end the call. A police call handler will be able to verify whether your caller was genuine.
- However, use another telephone or ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been cleared or wait at least ten minutes before using your telephone in order to clear your line from the scammer and report the matter to the police on 101, or 999 in an emergency.
- Alternatively, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. You can also report suspicious activity online by visiting: http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud
- The matter can also be reported to Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.



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