

Keep Your Money Safe



Surrey Police and Sussex Police Fraud Newsletter

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MOTOR FRAUD



There has been an increase in recent reports to Sussex Police and Surrey Police about scams involving selling high end cars.

Cars are advertised online via sites such as Facebook Marketplace or Autotrader. The scammers then get in contact to view the car, generally stating that they will be making a long journey to do so.

The scammers will usually arrive in groups of three. When the car is taken for a test drive, they comment that there is a funny noise.

whilst one person distracts the owner, the car is sabotaged with things such as used oil in the coolant or water, causing a warning light to appear. The scammers advise that they will still have the car but for a much lower price.

In one example, a Surrey victim was selling their car, a silver Mercedes for £3600. The scammers sabotaged the car and then bought it as `scrap` for £1000. The victim only realised what had happened after speaking to a friend.

“Each month we see many incidents of fraudsters targeting our residents in an attempt to defraud them. We’re working hard to prevent this and support vulnerable victims of fraud or scams. By following our tips and encouraging family, friends and colleagues to do so too, you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim.”

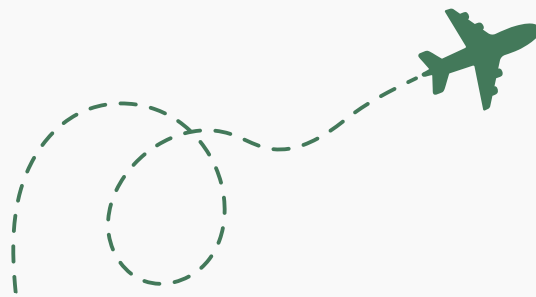
TOP TIPS:

- If you are selling a car, ensure that you set when and where to meet, to ensure that you feel safe.
- Have someone with you that you trust, so they cannot sabotage the car whilst one of you is distracted.
- If the sabotage does happen get a trusted motor recovery company to look at the car, and to give further advice.
- Do not sell the vehicle for a much lower price.



T/Detective Chief Inspector
Antony Leadbeatter, Surrey
Police & Sussex Police
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HOLIDAY FRAUD



Don't lose out before flying out!

Sussex Police and Surrey Police are urging residents to be wary of ticketing and holiday fraud as the summer season approaches with fraudsters waiting to prey on those booking flights and accommodation. With prices rising and finances being tightened everyone is understandably shopping around for the best deals.

In a recent case in East Sussex an elderly gentleman was conned out of £2500 for flights to Canada that didn't exist. Whilst online searching for flights he was telephoned by a fraudster posing as a travel company who emailed him tickets for a flight that after having checked with the airline, were not in fact genuine.



Before booking:

- Do your research: before committing and booking your holiday, make sure that you do a thorough online search to ensure the company is credible.
- Pay safely: use a credit card when shopping online, if you have one. Most major credit card providers protect online purchases.
- Remember to book through the trusted retailer and do not be encouraged to bypass the website rules and transfer money directly to the hosts.
- Look for the logo: make sure they're a licensed company and check that they are properly accredited. Look for an ATOL (Air Travel Organiser's Licence) or a membership of ABTA, The Travel Association.
- Beware of suspicious messages: be cautious of unexpected emails or messages offering unrealistic holiday deals. If you receive a suspicious email, report it by forwarding it to report@phishing.gov.uk



BT > COURIER FRAUD:





Across both force areas we continue to see the number of reports of courier fraud increase. A recent deviation in MO has seen would-be victims receiving an initial call from a BT impersonator followed almost immediately by the traditional police impersonator scam as detailed in this example:

An 82-year-old lady from West Sussex received a telephone call from a female claiming to be from BT stating that they will be turning her landline off within the next half hour due to her being involved in a criminal investigation. She called them back on the number they gave her. They then told her it was the police and that they had a male in custody and they had been told the victim was laundering money and dealing drugs to the male that was in custody. She was advised by the scam caller that she would need to travel to London to meet the officer outside the MET police station.

Thankfully on this occasion no money was lost and no banking details divulged to the fraudsters. Considerable losses have been reported to this emerging MO and we continue to work closely with the banks across Sussex and Surrey to identify when one of these frauds is taking place, alert Police and refuse the transaction under the Banking Protocol.



PROTECT AGAINST COURIER FRAUD

-  Your bank or the police will never call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN by phone or offer to pick up your card by courier. Hang up if you get a call like this.
-  If you need to call your bank back to check, wait five minutes; fraudsters may stay on the line after you hang up. Alternatively, use a different line altogether to call your bank.
-  Your debit or credit card is yours – don't let a stranger take it off you. You should only ever have to hand it over at your bank. If it's cancelled, you should destroy it yourself.
-  To report if you've been a victim of a scam, Action Fraud are available to help on 0300 123 2040 - or [click the link](#) to find out more.