

STAY SAFE FROM COURIER FRAUD



Advice and tips to spot the scams

We are reminding people in Essex to be vigilant following reports that fraudsters are attempting to take advantage of the current climate by carrying out crime online and at people's doorsteps.

Sadly fraudsters will look to take advantage of any situation. This means tricking people into parting with their money and information, including posing as government officials, bank or other financial services employees by text message, online or by knocking at doors.

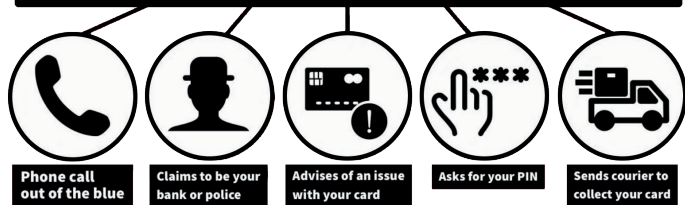
While we have only received a handful of incidents, it's important that people be mindful before handing over money or personal details.

Some simple steps you can take are:

- Do not assume or believe a call, a knock on the door or a deal online is genuine.
- Take five minutes before taking action and trust your instinct. If it doesn't feel real or genuine, it probably isn't.
- Challenge any calls, visits or messages you may receive.
- Never click on links and never divulge personal information – the police and government departments will never ask you for these details.
- If you receive any fake gov.uk/coronavirus messages, please report these to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.
- **Contact your bank immediately if you think you are a victim of a scam.**



COMMON EXAMPLE OF COURIER FRAUD



Anyone with information should call 101 or report online at essex.police.uk
You can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111** or report information to Action Fraud by visiting **www.actionfraud.police.uk**