

# Essex Police Fraud Alert System

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7th May 2021

## MY INFO? I DON'T THINK SO!

Residents are reminded to keep their personal documents safe after a number of reports of scammers asking for copies of passports and driving licences.

Essex Police have seen a recent trend in scammers requesting personal details which can be used to steal someone's identity. This has been linked to a number of different scams including:

- HMRC/National Insurance fraud where the criminal claims they need your personal details to prevent prosecution or reinstate your NI number.
- Computer software frauds where the criminal claims to be from your internet provider. They take control of your computer and say they need to take a photo of you and your driving licence/passport to confirm your identity.

Requests for personal details should always be a red flag. You should never provide this information unless you have confirmed who you are dealing with. To protect you information and your money, Take Five:

- **STOP** - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **CHALLENGE** - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT** - If you have provided personal details to someone over the phone and you now believe this to be a scam, contact your bank, building society and credit card company immediately and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Over 70's can renew their driving licence **for free** with the DVLA?

For those under 70 it costs £14 and should be completed via [www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence](http://www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence) or via the letter sent to your home address.



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on 101  
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and  
do **even more** Online **at** [essex.police.uk](http://essex.police.uk)

