

14th May 2021

## INNOCENT SOCIAL MEDIA GAME OR CRIMINAL TOOLKIT?

Essex Police are reminding residents that what appear to be innocent games posted on social media have the potential to allow criminals access to your personal data—ultimately allowing them to get their hands on your money.



Local policing teams have recently identified an increase in Facebook posts encouraging users to post their 'Film Star Name' using a pet's name and mothers maiden name, or asking questions such as what was number one in the charts when you were 10.

These seemingly harmless questions can provide criminals with lots of personal information that can assist them with stealing your identity. For example:

- *What is your film star name?*  
**First Pet and Mother's Maiden Name**
- *What was number one in the charts when you were 10?*  
Allows criminals to work out your **Date of Birth**
- *What car did you pass your driving test in?*  
Details of **first car**
- *Describe the city you were born in with a clue?*  
**Town of birth**



**All of these are potentially answers to bank account security questions.**

Remember to Take Five before posting personal details on social media and make sure to check your security settings so that your posts can only be seen by those who you want to see them!

⚠ 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](https://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

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