

# Kent Fraud Alert System



**TO STOP FRAUD™**

## Investment Fraud

Both Nationally and within Kent there has been an increase of victims with regards to investment frauds, so this week I wanted to give you some information on this type of criminality.

### **What is financial investments fraud?**

There are many different types of investment fraud. They usually involve criminals contacting people out of the blue and convincing them to invest in schemes or products that are worthless or do not exist. Once the criminals have received payment, they cease contact with the victim. Most investment frauds are run out of offices known as boiler rooms. They were given the name Boiler rooms, as they originated in the 1920's in the US and the fraudsters set up office in the basement or boiler room of well known big companies.

### **How do you protect yourself from these types of scams –**

- Investment opportunities: Don't be rushed into making an investment. Remember, legitimate organisations will never pressure you into investing on the spot.
- Seek advice first: Before making significant financial decisions, speak with trusted friends or family members, or seek professional independent advice.
- FCA register: Use the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) register to check if the company is regulated by the FCA. If you deal with a firm (or individual) that isn't regulated, you may not be covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) if things go wrong and you lose your money.

### **Preventing fraud**

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



#### **Remember, ABC:**



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest  
scam advice:



**@KentPoliceECU**



**Kent  
Police**

### **Contacting Kent Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://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](http://www.kent.police.uk)



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## Crypto Investment Fraud

One type of investment fraud we are seeing an increase in is Crypto Currency Investment Fraud. Generally, Fraudsters will cold call victims and use social media platforms to advertise 'get rich quick' investments in mining and trading in cryptocurrencies.

Fraudsters will convince victims to sign up to cryptocurrency investment websites and to part with their personal details such as credit card details and driving licences to open a trading account. The victim will then make an initial minimum deposit, after which the fraudster will call them to persuade them to invest again to achieve a greater profit.

In some cases, victims have realised that they have been defrauded, but only after the website has been deactivated and the suspects can no longer be contacted.

The following is advice on how to protect yourself -

- Don't assume it's real – professional-looking websites, adverts or social media posts don't always mean that an investment opportunity is genuine. Criminals can use the names of well-known brands or individuals to make their scams appear legitimate.
- Don't be rushed or pressured into deciding – a genuine bank or financial organisation won't force you to part with your money on the spot. Always be wary if you're pressured to invest quickly or promised returns that sound too good to be true.
- Stay in control – avoid uninvited investment offers, especially those over cold calls. If you're thinking about making an investment, get independent advice and thoroughly research the company first.

For more information about how to invest safely, please visit: <https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart>. If you believe you may have fallen victim to this scam, then contact your bank immediately and then report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or calling 0300 123 2040 or contact us on 101.

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