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**Please Be Alert to Courier Fraud - News Alert**

1 message

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**Gilluley, Paula** <Paula.Gilluley@norfolk.police.uk>

Good morning all

Unfortunately we are starting to see a re-emergence of the Courier Fraud Scams where persons purporting to be police officers cold call their victim, convincing them that they need to release far and wide in an effort to alert potential victims and prevent hard earned money being handed over. Could I trouble you to further share this press release in your community?

**Residents urged to be alert to courier fraud scam**

Residents are being warned about a courier fraud scam operating in Norfolk by suspects claiming to be police officers.

In the last few weeks, police have seen a rise in incident where cold-callers will make efforts to defraud victims of money, often stating they need

Officers are investigating an incident which happened on Tuesday (6 July) where a woman in West Winch was conned out of £4,200. Following the incident, she withdrew money, believing she was helping an investigation into counterfeit money. After withdrawing money, she returned home where a 'courier' collected

A second attempt that day is also being investigated after a man from Clenchwarton was cold-called by someone claiming to be from Hertfordshire to withdraw £9,000 which would be collected following day. The victim managed to withdraw £2,000 and told a family member about the incident

Detective Inspector Richard Weller, from Swaffham CID, urged people to make elderly or vulnerable relatives and neighbours aware of the scam

He said: "This type of courier fraud is nothing new; suspects will often approach victims under the guise of a police officer, bank or government

"They will often use a range of techniques and in these most recent incidents, cold callers claim to be police officers investigating bank accounts, helping a genuine police investigation, compelling them to withdraw the money. Suspects will then arrange to collect the money from the victim

"More often than not, we're talking large sums of cash into the thousands which is ultimately people's savings and funds they rely on.

"Police officers will never ask you to withdraw money, or send someone to collect money. We know scammers target the elderly and I would urge you to be vigilant."

Further advice includes:

- Your bank or the police will **NEVER** ask for your PIN, bank card or bank account details over the phone – never give these details to anyone
- Neither the police nor the banks will send a courier to collect money from you.
- Always request Photo ID and if unsure call the police.
- If you're asked to telephone a bank, then always do it on a different phone to the one you were contacted on.
- Fraudsters will keep the line open and have been known to play ringtones, hold music and a recorded message down the phone so the victim is calling police or use a friend or neighbour's telephone instead.
- Do not rush into complying to the scammers demands / requests.
- If you have already given your bank details over the phone or handed your card details to a courier, call your bank straight away to cancel

If anyone has received a similar type of telephone call or has any information about these incidents. Contact Norfolk Police on **101** quoting

Alternatively, Contact the independent charity Crimestoppers 100% anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

If you believe a crime is in progress, always call **999**.

For further advice, head to the Action Fraud website: [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

Thank you for your help in spreading this message.

Very kind regards

Paula

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PC 898 Gilluley

Community Engagement Officer

Kings Lynn & West Norfolk and Breckland District

Norfolk County Policing Command

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Tel: 07766990802

[Paula.Gilluley@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:Paula.Gilluley@norfolk.police.uk)

[www.norfolk.police.uk](http://www.norfolk.police.uk)

Twitter: [@BrecklandPolice](#) [@KingsLynnPolice](#)

Facebook: [\Breckland Police](#) [\Kings Lynn Police](#)



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