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# Essex Police Fraud Alert System

11

16th October 2020

## CRIMESTOPPERS LAUNCH COVID HOTLINE

The Crimestoppers COVID Fraud Hotline (0800 587 5030) has been set up by HM Government in partnership with Crimestoppers to enable individuals to report fraud within the public sector during COVID.

**CrimeStoppers.**  
**COVID Fraud Hotline**  
**0800 587 5030**

Don't let fraudsters abuse COVID support.

The hotline allows those with information to anonymously report their concerns in the knowledge that this information will be dealt with.

Giving Crimestoppers information in relation to fraud means we can help protect the public purse from individuals and companies seeking to undermine the stimulus schemes brought in by Her Majesty's Government to assist people during COVID. Contact anonymously and free of charge on **0800 587 5030** or use the form at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) if you have any information or suspicions about any potential crime involving the public sector.

If your information is in relation to the furlough scheme, please visit the **HMRC Fraud website** or if your information is in relation to benefit fraud, including universal credit, please visit [www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud](http://www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud).

To report fraud within the NHS, please use the **NHS Counter Fraud Authority online form**.

North East Regional Special Operations Unit

**NERSOU** | Protecting communities  
from organised crime



## Amazon-themed phishing campaigns spike ahead of Prime Day

Security researchers from Bolster have observed a recent spike in phishing campaigns impersonating Amazon ahead of the upcoming Prime Day retail event on 13-14 October.

The sophisticated campaigns attempt to leverage both Amazon features and consumer behaviours to lure victims to fraudulent webpages that harvest financial information, credentials and other sensitive data.

One new campaign targets "returns" and "order cancellations" related to Prime Day orders using a fraudulent site, [www.amazoncustomersupport\[.\]net](http://www.amazoncustomersupport[.]net), that impersonates a legitimate Amazon site.



If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, report it to Action Fraud

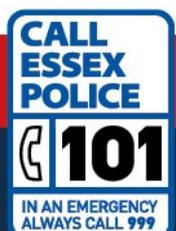
**ActionFraud**  
Report Fraud & Internet Crime  
0300 123 2040

Police in the North East are warning of a number of phishing emails following the Amazon Prime Day earlier in the week.



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)



## PARCEL DELIVERY SERVICE (PDS) HOAX EMAIL

A number of residents have recently received a hoax email (right) that warns them about a parcel delivery scam in the lead up to Christmas.

The majority of the information provided in the email is incorrect or out of date. The number in question has since been repurposed by another company (although will still set you back £3.60 per minute).

However, residents should still remain alert if they receive a card stating a parcel they do not remember ordering could not be delivered, and should be wary of taking delivery of parcels they have not ordered.

If you receive this hoax email, please do not pass it on, simply delete the message.

For more information, read the Action Fraud article here:

[www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/hoax-email-from-pds-parcel-delivery-service](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/hoax-email-from-pds-parcel-delivery-service)

### PLEASE NOTE AND PASS TO ALL YOUR CONTACTS

Christmas is fast approaching, Royal Mail & The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number).

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

For more information, see the Crime Stoppers website:

<http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/scams/postal-delivery-scam>

Please be aware that the premium rate number may change but nevertheless please do not call any number stated on a card from PDS.

**Can you please make all your family, friends and neighbours aware of the above.**

With new Tier 2 Covid restrictions in place in parts of Essex, residents are reminded to remain vigilant for the Covid-19 scams that have previously been circulating.

If you would like copies of previous EFAS alerts relating to Covid-19 scams, please email:

[Essex.Fraud.Alert.System@essex.police.uk](mailto:Essex.Fraud.Alert.System@essex.police.uk)



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

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