

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 www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Good morning,

Please be aware that criminals are looking to take advantage of the Coronavirus outbreak. These scams come in different forms, from fraudulently selling face masks, to claiming to be from the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The advice to protect yourself from these frauds remains the same – whether an organisation or seller, ensure you have completed suitable research to confirm they are trustworthy.

Please see the below from Action Fraud:

SCAM WARNING

ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
actionfraud.police.uk

Coronavirus scam costs victims over £800k in one month

Since February 2020, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has identified 21 reports of fraud where Coronavirus was mentioned, with victim losses totalling over £800k. Ten of these reports were made by victims that attempted to purchase protective face masks from fraudulent sellers. One victim reported losing over £15k when they purchased face masks that were never delivered. Reporting numbers are expected to rise as the virus continues to spread across the world. We have also received multiple reports about coronavirus-themed phishing emails attempting to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing sensitive personal and financial information.

Watch out for scam messages:
Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details

Shopping online: If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. Where possible, use a credit card to make the payment, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases.

Protect your devices from the latest threats:
Always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats.