



Connecting Communities



#HangUpOnFraudsters - Dorset Police warns of new telephone scam which has emerged in the last week

Message sent by

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In these recent cases, fraudsters have telephoned individuals claiming to be a police officer from the Metropolitan Police. They have informed the member of the public that their personal details have been recovered during a criminal investigation, relating to a man who is believed to be involved in fraudulent activity.

The fraudster explains that their money is therefore no longer secure and instructs the victim to make a transfer from a known account to a different bank. He tells the victim that they suspect the man has an accomplice within their bank, so to withhold the information given from bank employees.

In one case, during the course of the fraud, the victim mentioned a separate ISA. The fraudster subsequently encouraged the victim to also transfer these funds: this resulted in the victim losing nearly £40,000 of savings.

So far, attempts have been made to use this method in Sherborne, Dorchester and Bournemouth.

Please remember:

- Police officers from any force will **NEVER** call you and ask for your financial details or encourage you to transfer money between accounts
- Your bank will **NEVER** ask for your financial details over the phone
- **NEVER** send cash or bank cards anywhere via courier or in a taxi
- If **ANYONE** calls and asks for your bank details, PIN or for you to send money or cards via courier or taxi – **HANG UP**. Wait five minutes, dial 1471 and write down the number. Then call the police on 101.

Detective Constable Rhys Griffiths said: “There have only been a small number of attempts made to defraud Dorset residents using this tactic, and Dorset Police is committed to working with the public to ensure it stays that way.

“Please follow our advice and share the message with family and friends. Fraudsters will target the most vulnerable in our communities. It is therefore hugely important we work together to make as many people as possible aware of the risk fraudsters pose, and what they can do to help prevent themselves from falling victim.

“The police or your bank will never ask for your financial details over the phone. If you are ever unsure as to whether a caller is genuine, even if they are not asking for your details, hang up. Never tell anyone anything over the phone that you are not comfortable with.”