

ADVICE ON DEALING WITH FRAUD PROVIDED BY ESSEX POLICE – JULY 2014

Essex Police work in partnership with 'Action Fraud' run by The City of London Police. Action Fraud is the UK's national fraud-reporting centre, which acts as a central point of contact for all information about fraud and financially-motivated internet crime. Action Fraud passes reports of crime to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). NFIB analyse all fraud and financially-motivated internet crimes and information reports. Crimes with viable lines of enquiry will be sent to the relevant force or agency as 'packages' to investigate further.

The public should report most fraud offences direct to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk.

However, where the offender is committing or has recently committed a crime or where there is a local suspect who can be identified through viable investigative leads, the victim should contact the Police. In addition, vulnerable victims can contact Police directly and we will liaise with Action Fraud or their behalf if preferred. If the offender is still on scene, 999 would be appropriate. Otherwise use 101 to report the crime to our Crime Bureau.

Where members of the public are aware that anyone is planning/is committing/has committed any of the below offences, these should also be reported to Police.

- Making or supplying articles for use in fraud
- Possess / control article(s) for use in fraud
- Possession of false documents
- Making off without payment (all types, e.g. restaurant MOWP, taxi MOWP, fuel MOWP etc.)
- Forgery or use of drug prescription
- Fraud, forgery etc. associated with vehicle or driver records
- Other forgery

The Financial Institutions will encourage customers (both personal and business) to report cheque, plastic card (Credit card, Debit card, Prepayment card and Store card) or online bank account fraud directly to them and not the Police in the first instance. Online bank accounts include telephone bank accounts. The Financial Institutions will pass fraud reported to them directly to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB).

Below are examples of the types of fraud that should be reported to Action Fraud and not to Essex Police (unless the offender is on scene/ just left the scene or the victim is vulnerable)

Lottery scams, counterfeit cashiers cheques, dating scams, fraud recovery, inheritance fraud, loan fraud, share sales and boiler room fraud, pyramid or Ponzi schemes, prime bank guarantees, time shares and holiday club fraud, online shopping and auctions, consumer phone fraud, door to door sales and bogus trades people (not including those who con their way into homes to steal-these should be reported to Essex Police), other consumer non-investment fraud, computer software service fraud, ticket fraud, retail fraud, charity fraud, cheque, plastic card and online bank account fraud, application fraud (excluding mortgages), mortgage related fraud, mandate fraud, dishonestly retaining a wrongful credit, insurance related fraud, insurance broker fraud, passport application fraud, Department of Works and Pensions fraud, HM Revenue and Customs fraud, pension fraud by pensioners or their estate and computer hacking.