

The Fraud & Scam Bulletin

JULY 2026

Your monthly update direct from West Mercia Police on the latest
scams and frauds

IS IT REALLY THE POLICE CALLING YOU?

There has been a significant rise recently of cold callers phoning residents and claiming to be Police Officers. This not only applies to West Mercia area but nationally as well.

One of the more common identities claims to be a Detective from Holborn Police Station in London though they very often mispronounce the word "Holborn".

Fraudsters impersonate the police to scare you into action by pretending to be a voice of authority. They will also add a tone of urgency but always stop and think. If you are not sure then seek advice from a trusted friend or relative, or phone 101 to check the person's identity. .

"You have been a victim of fraud" - some Fraudsters will tell you that they are contacting you due to a fraud investigation where you are supposedly the victim. They may say they have found a counterfeit item, such as a passport, with your name on it. Other times, they will say that there has been unauthorised use of your bank account or your credit card. You are then asked to provide your details to confirm that it was your card that was stolen.

After the fraudster receives the details, they will use them to withdraw money from the victims' accounts.

In some cases, they may use the storyline that they are investigating a fraudulent member of the bank staff and ask you to withdraw a sum of money in notes from your bank for someone to come round and collect. Ignore such requests and put the phone down.

They may then tell you to dial "999" to check their identities but as they are able to keep the line open, you are still speaking to the same person or one of their partners

Police officers will never contact you out of the blue and request personal or financial information. If an officer contacts you in person, then they should show you their Warrant Card first.

Similarly, before contacting your bank to report the fraud, wait at least ten minutes to ensure the line is clear. You can also clear the line by calling a friend or family member or by using a different phone than the one on which you were contacted.

However, if you accidentally shared your bank details or handed over your card to a courier, call your bank immediately. You can reach your bank's fraud department directly by dialling **159**.

Please feel free to share these messages with any vulnerable friends, relatives or neighbours

If you have fallen for a fraud,

Report it to **Report Fraud** (***formerly known as ACTION FRAUD***) on **0300 123 2040** or via reportfraud.police.uk

Scam Text messages can be forwarded to 7726 to help phone providers take prompt action and block numbers that generate spam on their networks. You can also report Scam mobile calls by texting 7726 with the word "Call" followed by the fraudulent caller's phone number.

Forward **Fake Emails** received to report@phishing.gov.uk

If you think your bank account or personal banking details have been used fraudulently, then use the short phone number - **159** - to contact the Fraud Prevention Department of most major UK banks.

