

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Energy Scams

With the cost of living concerns dominating the news, it is no surprise that fraudsters are keen to capitalise on this opportunity to scam you out of your hard earned money.

Here is one of the latest phishing emails, this time impersonating E.ON and refers to obtaining a refund due to being overcharged.

You are asked to click on a link and you will be taken to a genuine looking website where the fraudsters will seek to steal your personal and financial data.

It is a SCAM and Action Fraud have received a large number of reports on this over the last few weeks.

E-ON or any other energy company will never contact you in this way asking you to click on a link.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers. 

Remember, ABC:

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

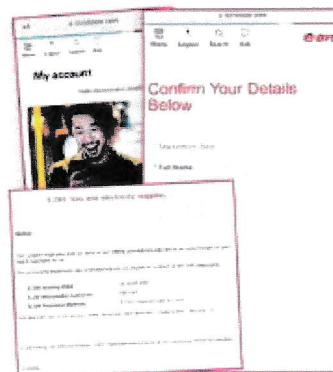
Get the latest scam advice: 
@KentPoliceECU

SCAM WARNING

Watch out for E.ON refund scam emails

Action Fraud has received 206 reports relating to fake emails purporting to be from E.ON, the utility company. The emails state that the recipient is owed a refund due to an "overcharge". The links in the emails lead to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal E.ON login credentials, as well as personal and financial information.

- Your bank, or any other official organisation, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you need to check that it's a genuine message, contact them directly.
- Spotted a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - report@phishing.gov.uk



**Kent
Police**

Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

www.kent.police.uk   

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How strong is your password?

A handy quick guide to show how secure your password may or may not be depending on how many letters, numbers, characters you have in it against how long it takes a hacker to carry out a Brute Force attack.

Have a look and if you think your password is a bit weak, then consider some of the stronger combination suggestions and perhaps get it changed for the weekend.

TIME IT TAKES A HACKER TO BRUTE FORCE YOUR PASSWORD IN 2022

| Number of Characters | Numbers Only | Lowercase Letters | Upper and Lowercase Letters | Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters | Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 4 | Instantly | Instantly | Instantly | Instantly | Instantly |
| 5 | Instantly | Instantly | Instantly | Instantly | Instantly |
| 6 | Instantly | Instantly | Instantly | Instantly | Instantly |
| 7 | Instantly | Instantly | 2 secs | 7 secs | 31 secs |
| 8 | Instantly | Instantly | 2 mins | 7 mins | 39 mins |
| 9 | Instantly | 10 secs | 1 hour | 7 hours | 2 days |
| 10 | Instantly | 4 mins | 3 days | 3 weeks | 5 months |
| 11 | Instantly | 2 hours | 5 months | 3 years | 34 years |
| 12 | 2 secs | 2 days | 24 years | 200 years | 3k years |
| 13 | 19 secs | 2 months | 1k years | 12k years | 202k years |
| 14 | 3 mins | 4 years | 64k years | 750k years | 16m years |
| 15 | 32 mins | 100 years | 3m years | 46m years | 1bn years |
| 16 | 5 hours | 3k years | 173m years | 3bn years | 92bn years |
| 17 | 2 days | 69k years | 9bn years | 179bn years | 7tn years |
| 18 | 3 weeks | 2m years | 467bn years | 11tn years | 438tn years |



› Learn about our methodology at hivesystems.io/password



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Kent Residents targeted by FIFA online lottery scam

We have received the following from our colleagues at KCC.

With the World Cup starting in three months time, Kent residents are being warned of potential scams. Residents have reported receiving fraudulent letters claiming they have won thousands of pounds in a FIFA lottery.

The scammers send instructions on how to claim your prize, which involves giving your personal information and the criminals ask for an upfront 'processing fee.

It is a SCAM. Be sure to look out for this and similar scams in the run up to the World Cup or other big sporting events.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Parcel Delivery scams – They have not gone away.

A Kent resident reported this week that they had received a text message that a parcel for them had arrived but they were required to make a payment of £1.45 in order for this to be delivered and that they needed to click on a link and supply personal and financial data. The message stated that the parcel would be returned back to the sender if they did not respond immediately. Fortunately, they knew this was a scam and did not respond but is a timely reminder that with Christmas fast approaching, we will see an increase in these types of scams.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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