

September 2021

GREATER MANCHESTER  
**POLICE**



# ECONOMIC CRIME UNIT

## Scam Care Awareness Messages (SCAM)

**PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST FRAUD BY STAYING UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST SCAMS**

### What is the Economic Crime Unit?

The ECU is part of the Serious Crime Division of Greater Manchester Police. We have responsibility for all economic and cyber-dependant crime (crimes that are committed using technology) in the Greater Manchester Area.

Our primary function is to ensure that the public are informed of and protected against fraud and cybercrime while bringing offenders to justice, tracing and seizing criminals assets.

### What's New?

We have been made aware that fraudsters are targeting victims who use messaging platforms such as Whatsapp and Facebook messenger. You may receive a message from a fraudster who is purporting to be a family member or friend. They claim that their phone has broken and this is their new number. They will then go on to say they need help with a payment and ask for money via bank transfer. Typical reasons for needing money are for a short term loan, to avoid bailiffs and that their banking app isn't up and running on their new phone yet. Please be aware of this current scam and do not transfer anyone any money. Don't always assume that people are who they say they are.

If you suspect a scam contact [@actionfrauduk](mailto:@actionfrauduk) at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

# August Fraud Recap

**In August we shared four warning messages about scams we have seen an increase in around Greater Manchester.**

**Our first scam alert reminded you about ticket fraud as normality begun. Avoid using bank transfers to pay, credit cards or payment services such as PayPal provide built in safeguards should you need to recover your money.**

**We warned you about NHS Test and Trace. NHS Test and Trace staff will not; enter your home, ask for anything other than to see your ID, photograph your identification, ask for any financial details, ask you for money or issue a fine. If someone visits you claiming to be from NHS Test and Trace and you do not believe they are legitimate, call the police.**

**We saw a rise in fraudsters taking advantage of people looking for love. Fraudsters gain your trust and then change the topic to investment , they claim they can 'help' you make money. Be suspicious of unsolicited contact about an investment opportunity.**

**The final scam alert of August warned you about a current scam. Be vigilant of scam calls that appear to be coming from numbers similar to your own. Commonly, the first seven digits (07nnnnn) match the victim's own number. Do not respond to any calls or texts you receive about these. Take a moment to stop and think before parting with money or your personal information.**

**Check your inbox every Monday in September for more ScamAlerts and stay one step ahead of the scammers.**

# Upcoming Events

- We are pleased to announce that we will be attending the Emergency Services Show at the Birmingham NEC with NWROCU on the 7th&8th September!

We will be at stand P90, and are teaming up to present the portfolio of work carried out by our teams in relation to financial crime. This includes the Cyber and Economic Crime Awareness Service (CECAS), the Intelligence Development Team and more.

The live event will feature:

450+ leading exhibitors

200+ expert speakers

10,000+ visitors

Click [here](#) to claim your FREE tickets!

- AgeUK Bolton Introduction 9th September
- Safer Stockport - Cuckooing 9th September
- 'How to avoid scammers' with Wythenshawe U3A -Wythenshawe Forum Library, 1st floor. Room 1 - Tuesday 21st September 10am
- From September 1st our ScamBusters begin their visits to independent living schemes across Greater Manchester- these will take place twice a week over the next few months.

# Cyber Secure Top Tips

Every month we are going to give you some of our top tips about staying cyber-secure and protecting yourself and your details while enjoying the Internet.

The top tip for September is to install the latest software and app updates.

You'll often receive a prompt on your computer, smartphone or tablet to inform you that a software or app is ready to be updated. Don't ignore these messages!

Cyber criminals use weaknesses in software and apps to attack your devices and steal your identity. Software and app updates are designed to fix these weaknesses and installing them as soon as possible will keep your devices secure.

The few minutes it takes to download and install the updates could save you a significant amount of time and trouble in the long run, reducing the risk of you falling victim to identity theft.

Why don't you have a look at your devices now and see if there are any software or app updates you need to do?

