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Business Watch

Police Scotland Business Advice

February 2021

Should this bulletin be sent to one of your colleagues as well as you? If you are 'moving on' please let us know a new contact within your company to send the bulletin to.

If you have any sister companies or businesses you work closely with who you think would benefit from this bulletin (check with them first) then please let us know.

If you no longer wish to receive this bulletin then please let us know at NorthEastCrimeReduction@Scotland.pnn.police.uk

URGENT MESSAGES WILL BE SENT OUT AS APPROPRIATE

NHS Coronavirus Vaccine Scam

Coronavirus scams still seem to be on the increase.

How to protect yourself

In the UK, coronavirus vaccines will only be available via the National Health Service. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a GP surgery or pharmacy local to you, to receive your vaccine. Remember, the vaccine is **free of charge**. At no point will you be asked to pay.

- The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details.
- The NHS will never ask you for your PIN or banking password.
- The NHS will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.

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- The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

Ask for ANI

What is Ask for ANI?

Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) is a code word scheme developed by the Home Office to provide a discreet way for victims of domestic abuse to signal that they need emergency help from the safety of their local pharmacy.

A link to information regarding Ask for ANI is available on the Home Office website or by clicking [here](#)

Vehicle Security

Police Scotland are reminding motorists not to leave valuables in their vehicles overnight following a number of thefts of or thefts from motor vehicles in the Aberdeen area between Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 January 2021, Turriff area between Thursday 21 and Friday 22 January 2021 and Peterhead and Cruden Bay areas on Monday 25 January 2021.

Please consider these simple steps when leaving your vehicle.

- Never leave items on show as an invitation – Mobile phones, electronic equipment, coins, sunglasses, tools, clothing and bags should be removed from the vehicle or placed in the boot.
- Keys and ignition fobs should be kept safe and out of sight and reach – a common way to steal a car or van is to take the keys or ignition fob, either when left in the vehicle or from your home.
- Always lock and close the windows of your vehicle when unattended – on the drive, the petrol station forecourt or when parking, an unlocked vehicle is the easiest to steal or steal from.
- Double check: Don't just listen out for the sound of your doors locking, check for your lights flashing and/or mirrors closing. Better still, check the door handle!

Cars fitted with immobilisers can't be hotwired. This means that keys are needed to drive your car. Keep your keys safe. Don't leave them in the lock of your front door, or on the kitchen counter. When you are out, keep them with you at all times. A key is used in 70% of car thefts. By keeping your keys safe, you're reducing the risk of your car being stolen by more than two thirds.

Rogue Traders

Following incidents relating to rogue traders in Moray, Oldmeldrum and Stonehaven between Friday 22 January and Wednesday 27 January 2021, please be aware of Doorstep Crime.

Door-to-door scams involve criminals knocking on your door and unexpectedly offering products or services. Fraudsters convince you to pay for goods or work which is often overpriced, of poor quality or is never carried out. In many cases the work isn't even necessary. They may use intimidation and pressure you to make quick decisions so that you agree to their demands.

How to protect yourself

- Always check their identity. If you are not happy do not let them into your house under any circumstances.
- Never leave your front door open / unlocked and unattended so a second individual can't enter without your knowledge.
- Take time to consider your options and research costs from other providers. If in doubt contact your local Trading Standards office.
- If you feel pressured have the confidence to say NO.

Bank Scams

There have been numerous bank scams already this year, here are the most common 5 to be aware of:

- **Remote access software scams** where a caller asks you to download software to your phone or computer so that they can 'fix' a problem or urges you to move money to a 'safe account' because yours has been compromised. [Find out more.](#)
- **Scam adverts on social media and search engines** - fraudsters pay to promote adverts for scam websites, which are often clones of legitimate and trusted companies and brands.
- **Sim-swap fraud** where a scammer takes control of your phone number by moving your number to a new Sim or network. Once they have control of your number, they can intercept text messages from your bank to steal your security codes. [Find out more.](#)

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- **Phishing emails and texts** - fake messages purportedly from your bank which may contain links leading to a cloned website where scammers can steal your financial or personal details.
- **Impersonation scams** where scammers pose as your bank or another trusted organisation in order to win your trust. They often use [number spoofing](#) to clone the bank's phone number

If you receive an unsolicited message from your bank, don't click on any buttons or links.

We advise that, if you receive an unexpected call or message from your bank and are unsure whether it is legitimate or not, you should hang up, clear the line and phone your bank using their official number. You should never give any details to a cold caller, even if they appear to know some of your details already.

Your bank will never cold call and ask you to move money to another account.

Cyber Security

New National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) guidance helps people stay safe online when cyber criminals use information from data breaches to try and steal sensitive personal data.

Further information relating to post-data breach scams is available [here](#)

Further Data breach guidance for individuals and families is available [here](#)

Puppy Purchasing Advice

Farms across Europe are breeding puppies at alarming rates, in appalling conditions and transporting them to homes in the UK to sell. These normal-looking homes are a shop-front for unscrupulous puppy dealing rings who want to sell you a likely sick and traumatised animal.

Tips for spotting a puppy dealers online advert

Dealers are using the internet to their advantage when it comes to advertising and selling farmed puppies.

If you're looking to buy a puppy make sure you read adverts carefully and look out for the tell-tale signs:

- Dealers may use the same contact number on more than one advert. Try Googling the number to see if it has been used on any other puppy adverts.
- Descriptions may have been copied and pasted and used on more than one advert - try Googling the description and see if it has been used before, word-for-word.
- Words like 'miniature' and 'teacup' can be a sign of dealers trying to capitalise on popular terms.
- Photos of the puppies may have been used on other adverts. Right click on the photo, select 'search Google for image' and see if it has been used on other ads.
- If the advert says a puppy has been vaccinated - check how old he or she is. A puppy cannot be vaccinated before four - six weeks of age. So, if a person is advertising a three-week-old vaccinated puppy, they are lying.
- If the puppy is advertised as having a passport, it has most probably been imported.
- We have seen dealers claim they are Kennel Club Registered to convey legitimacy - but be wary of this, ask for original documents and check with the kennel club before buying a puppy.
- Promises of 'free insurance' and 'puppy packs' do not mean the advert is from a legitimate breeder.

Safer Internet Day 2021

Safer Internet Day takes place on Tuesday 9 February 2021. The theme is "Together for a better internet". The day will focus on all stakeholders joining together to make the internet a safer and better place for all, and especially for children and young people.

For further information and details about how to get involved click [here](#)

Care Day 2021

Care Day 2021 is taking place on Friday 19 February 2021. Care Day is an opportunity to celebrate the rights of care experienced children and young people.

For more information on how to get involved in Mentoring and supporting care-experienced young people, please click on the following links:

[Who Cares? Scotland](#) Who Cares? Scotland is a national voluntary organisation, working with care experienced young people and care leavers across Scotland. The organisation supports care experienced people to have their voice heard.

[MCR Pathways](#) MCR Pathways is a Scottish Mentoring Programme delivered across schools in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and many other Local Authority areas across Scotland. It is a school-based mentoring programme supporting young people in or on the edges of the care system to realise their full potential through education. MCR recruits, trains and matches each volunteer mentor with a young person.

Sign Up for Neighbourhood Alert for free

A great way in which Police can share information is via the Neighbourhood Alert system, which is delivered by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. This enables us to send out e-mail messages relating to local crime trends and share crime prevention advice quickly and effectively to a wide audience. The information can also be targeted to particular groups, streets, or communities as required.

Anyone can sign-up to receive these e-mail messages, either individually or as a community group. The sign-up process allows you to specify the type of information you are interested in and from what source. This is coordinated by our partners in Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, who work with a range of partners in the public sector to provide information not only on crime, but also about community safety and resilience. We only send out messages which contribute to keeping you informed and safe.

In these uncertain times, Neighbourhood Alert is recognized as a trusted source of information. Please consider taking a moment to sign-up for Neighbourhood Alert e-mail messages, and encourage family, friends and neighbor's to do the same. Over 23,000 people across Scotland have joined so far, with more joining every day. You can join too, without setting up a Neighbourhood Watch.

Simply visit
www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk

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For up-to-date information on scams and cyber-related crimes and crime prevention tips, check out the following monthly bulletin:

<https://cyberscotlandweek.com/news>

or sign up to receive updates at

<https://scot.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=95521127d4a8eebda241ca1b6&id=243ff3773b>

CRIMESTOPPERS - <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Tel. 0800 555 111

SPEAK UP. STAY SAFE - CRIMESTOPPERS are an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime 100% anonymously.

ARE YOU READY FOR A LIFE CHANGING CAREER? -

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/recruitment/police-officers/>



As always please share the above information with your colleagues.

Regards

**Crime Reduction Unit
North East Division**

Police Scotland, 230 Abbotswell Crescent, Aberdeen, AB12 3JT

Email: NorthEastCrimeReduction@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.scotland.police.uk

Twitter: www.twitter.com/NorthEPolice

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision

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Police Scotland's North East Division covers rural and urban areas in Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. The division has five territorial command areas which have their own dedicated Area Commander, who is responsible for the daily policing function. Each command area is served by a number of community policing teams whose activities are built around the needs of the local community. These teams respond to local calls and look for long term solutions to key issues. They are assisted by the division's Crime Reduction Unit who deliver against Force and local priorities in a number of areas, including physical and social crime prevention, supporting and enhancing community engagement and creating and sustaining strong and effective partnership working.

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