

TV Alert – CRIMESTOPPERS



Thames Valley police are supporting a CRIMESTOPPERS campaign to tackle Courier Fraud

Crimestoppers is actively working to combat **courier fraud** across the **Thames Valley Region** through a targeted awareness campaign. Below are a summary of the key points of the campaign.

What is Courier Fraud?

- Courier fraud typically involves a fraudster posing as a police officer or bank official.
 They:
- Claims there is fraudulent activity on your bank account.
- Ask for sensitive information like your bank details and PIN
- Instruct you to withdraw cash or handover valuable.
- Send a courier or taxi to collect the items
- Disappear with your money and/or possessions

To find out more about the campaign and how to protect yourself read more at <u>Tackling</u> <u>courier fraud in the Thames Valley | Crimestoppers</u>

Detective Inspector Duncan Wynn, Head of Central Fraud Unit at Thames Valley Police. said:

"I am proud to support this vital Crimestoppers campaign. With its backing, I am confident we can shine a light on the heinous crime affecting our communities across Thames Valley and empower residents to speak up and help bring perpetrators to justice"



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Every fraud starts through a route of contact which is covered in our Fraud Protection toolkit

- Millions of pounds are lost to courier fraud annually.
- Knowledge and collective action are our biggest asset when rising to the challenge of fraud.
- I encourage you all to start having conversations about fraud, especially with any vulnerable family members or those in your community.
- Together, we will continue to rise to the challenge of fraud."

<u>Tackling courier fraud in the Thames Valley | Crimestoppers</u>

- How do criminals trick people into courier fraud?
- How can family, friends and neighbours help?
- How are young people drawn into courier fraud crime
- How taxi drivers can be implicated in courier fraud
- How retailers, jewellers and currency exchanges can all be implicated in couriers fraud
- Advice on courier fraud

You can report to Crimestoppers, 100% anonymously – call free on 0800 555 111 or use their online form below:

Give information Anonymously

The Crimestoppers role:

- To raise awareness of the tactics used by the **fraudsters**
- Encouraging the public to report suspicious activity 100% anonymously
- Offering a **safe and confidential** way to share information



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What can you report?

- Names & descriptions of suspects.
- Apps or methods used to recruit couriers.
- Suspicious behaviour from passengers or customers.
- Retailers knowingly accepting fraudulent payments.

"Fraudsters prey on creating pressure which is designed to make you act quickly but <u>Stop! Think Fraud</u> empowers us to collectively join together to help stop fraud in its tracks."

If you've lost money or provided your financial information to someone, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at <u>actionfraud.police.uk</u> or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, call Police Scotland on 101.

Emotional and further practical support is available from <u>Victims First</u> who may be contacted on 0300 1234 148, or via Victims First Online Referral Form or Live Chat.