



Horsham Weekly Bulletin

Tuesday 5th March 2019

News and appeals

Phone fraudsters use tax evasion claims to lure victims

Elderly and vulnerable people are being warned to beware of phone calls from fraudsters pretending to be from HM Customs and Revenue (HMRC) or the police.

The bogus callers claim the targeted person is wanted for tax evasion and is arrestable on warrant unless they pay a cash sum - usually some £3,000 to £4,000 - to clear their 'debt'.

Some even address victims by name, or use a number that is often displayed as the official number of the agency they claim to represent, to add credibility to their call.

But the genuine authorities stress that people would never be texted or telephoned by them out of the blue with requests for payments, to log in to an online account or to disclose personal information, such as PIN numbers, passwords or bank details.

Anyone receiving such contact should hang up and report the call - preferably using a separate phone or computer in case the criminals have kept the line open - to police [here](#), at 101 or Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

It is understood that HMRC received more than 60,000 reports of phone scams in the six months up to January 2019, an increase of 360 per cent on the preceding six months.

Sergeant Kat Argholeka, of Sussex Police, said: "This underlines the importance of never giving out private information and reporting any suspicious activity without delay.

"We'd also ask friends or relatives of potentially vulnerable people to ensure they are fully aware and alert to the risks."

<https://news.sussex.police.uk/news/phone-fraudsters-use-tax-evasion-claims-to-lure-victims-360679>

Crime summary

Burglary – Good News - There have been no reports of Burglary dwellings.

Burglary other than Dwelling

Reference: 1298 24th February

Location: Birch Drive, Billingshurst

Date and time: Time frame unknown 24th February

Details: Garage was entered and a pedal cycle was stolen.

Reference: 0006 25th February

Location: Caffyns Rise, Billingshurst

Date and time: Time frame

Details: Pedal cycle stolen from garage

Other

February Newsletter highlights courier fraud again as there have been further reports of this type of crime. The criminal gangs behind these crimes frequently follow similar methods so there are some particular courier fraud characteristics to be alerted to.

If you suspect someone you know may be vulnerable to fraud, please share this newsletter with them.

The newsletter can also be found on the Sussex police website.

Help us keep Sussex safe

If you saw or heard anything, or have any information about any incident in this message please [contact us online](#), email us at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or call **101**, quoting the reference number provided.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity **Crimestoppers**, anonymously, on **0800 555 111**, or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Your local teams

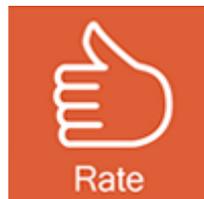
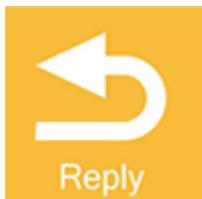
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Message Sent By

Janice Brown (Police, Prevention Support & Engagement Officer, Sussex)

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