

Different SCAMS

1. Amazon Prime Account

Fraudsters are telephoning residents stating they wish to refund an amount of money to their Amazon Prime Account and request remote access to their victim's computer in order to make the refund. This is a scam. Do NOT give any details or allow access to your PC.

2. HMRC

Fraudsters are contacting residents saying they are from HMRC and threatening them with arrest or prosecution if they do not pay a sum of money to them which they say is owing. This is a scam. Do NOT give them your bank details or any other personal information (ie National Insurance Number) and do NOT agree to pay.

3. Courier Fraud

Fraudsters are contacting residents by telephone and pretending to be either police officers or bank employees. They will invent a story about your bank card being cloned, or about counterfeit currency at their local bank branch. Victims have been tricked into handing over their bank cards or cash, while others were instructed to purchase high value jewellery to give to a "courier". Should you receive any such calls, try to note the callers telephone number by dialling 1471 immediately after the call. Contact your Bank to ensure everything is OK and let them know what has happened.

4. O2 / Mobile telecommunications providers

Fraudsters are informing people that there are issues with their Direct Debit making it impossible to process the latest bill. They suggest that in order to avoid fees, you should update your billing information via the hyperlink provided. If you receive a text message like this, do not click on the link(s) or follow any instructions given to you.

5. It has been reported to Police that Stroud residents have been receiving a phone call from someone claiming to be the NHS. On this phone call they will offer you the chance to reserve a covid vaccination slot and will ask for your personal details and also your bank details. Please do not engage in this scam, the NHS will NOT ask for your bank details and you will find the appointment booked for you is NOT valid.

If you are eligible for a covid vaccine you should receive notification from your local surgery.

GENERAL ADVICE

NEVER disclose your PIN number or give out your bank details or withdraw cash. Do not engage in conversation and if in any doubt, hang up the telephone.

Many of these fraudsters tend to target the elderly. Please share this information with elderly relatives, neighbours and friends, so that those who are most likely to be targeted are aware.

If you suspect that you may have been the victim of fraud please report this to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.