# Police warn of rising courier fraud after Northamptonshire victims lose thousands



Police in Northamptonshire have issued a critical warning after two residents were recently defrauded of thousands of pounds by scammers posing as officials from both a bank and the Metropolitan Police. This distressing incident highlights a growing trend of courier fraud, a sophisticated scam in which criminals impersonate trusted entities to exploit vulnerable individuals.

On the day of the incidents, victims reported receiving calls from what police have described as "convincing" impersonators. These scammers managed to persuade them to divulge sensitive information and hand over significant amounts of money, which were later collected by couriers dispatched by the fraudsters. This method of operation is not isolated; similar incidents have seen groups of criminals target communities over consecutive days, making their collection efforts easier.

Detective Sergeant Matt Crick has emphasized the despicable nature of these crimes, noting that victims often feel deep embarrassment after being misled. He pointed out that legitimate officials from banks or the police will never contact individuals unexpectedly to request bank details, cash withdrawals, or transfers. “Crimes like this cause deep distress to victims, who often feel embarrassed that they believed what they were being told,” he stated. He further advised anyone receiving unexpected calls claiming to be from the police to ask for a collar number, hang up, and then contact the authorities directly.

This warning comes amidst a backdrop of increasing reports of fraud, including a shocking case in Northern Ireland where a Chinese student lost £200,000 to criminals posing as Beijing police officers. The scammers threatened arrest if she did not comply with their demands for payment. Detective Superintendent Richard Thornton described this as a “really despicable, calculated crime,” highlighting the extent to which these fraudsters go to appear legitimate.

The scale of courier fraud is alarming, with recent statistics indicating that criminals have defrauded individuals of staggering amounts. In one instance, an elderly woman lost over £20,000 when a scammer claimed her bank account was compromised and instructed her to withdraw funds for an investigation. These instances underscore the urgent need for community vigilance, especially among the elderly and those who may be more susceptible to manipulation.

Authorities urge individuals to adopt preventive measures to avoid falling victim to such scams. Key recommendations include refraining from answering unknown calls, never giving out personal details without verification, and avoiding pressure to make hasty financial decisions. If an unexpected call arises, it is advisable to consult trusted friends or relatives before proceeding.

This latest spate of fraud serves as a stark reminder of the cunning tactics employed by scammers and the critical importance of public awareness in combatting these crimes. Residents are encouraged to speak with their elderly relatives, friends, and neighbours in order to foster a collective shield against scams. The police are keen to remind everyone that the responsibility of preventing such crimes doesn't solely lie with law enforcement but also with the community as a whole.

As these incidents continue to unfold, authorities remain vigilant in their efforts to apprehend those responsible while emphasising the necessity for individuals to remain educated about these scams and take proactive steps to safeguard their finances.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14732985/Police-urgent-warning-scammers-pretending-POLICE-Brits-conned-1-000s-just-24-hours-heres-safe.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/march/warning-issued-as-fraudsters-impersonate-police-and-bank-staff/)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14732985/Police-urgent-warning-scammers-pretending-POLICE-Brits-conned-1-000s-just-24-hours-heres-safe.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/march/northamptonshire-police-issues-warning-following-courier-fraud-incident/)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14732985/Police-urgent-warning-scammers-pretending-POLICE-Brits-conned-1-000s-just-24-hours-heres-safe.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/january/new-warning-issued-following-latest-courier-fraud-incident/)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14732985/Police-urgent-warning-scammers-pretending-POLICE-Brits-conned-1-000s-just-24-hours-heres-safe.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/march/northamptonshire-police-issues-warning-following-courier-fraud-incident/)
5. Paragraph 5: [[4]](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/courier-fraud-warning-after-couple-scammed-by-criminals-posing-as-police-officers), [[5]](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/courier-fraud)
6. Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14732985/Police-urgent-warning-scammers-pretending-POLICE-Brits-conned-1-000s-just-24-hours-heres-safe.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/duo-jailed-impersonating-police-officers-defraud-victims-over-ps400000)
7. Paragraph 7: [[6]](https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/january/new-warning-issued-following-latest-courier-fraud-incident/)
8. Paragraph 8: [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14732985/Police-urgent-warning-scammers-pretending-POLICE-Brits-conned-1-000s-just-24-hours-heres-safe.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/courier-fraud)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14732985/Police-urgent-warning-scammers-pretending-POLICE-Brits-conned-1-000s-just-24-hours-heres-safe.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/march/warning-issued-as-fraudsters-impersonate-police-and-bank-staff/> - Northamptonshire Police issued a warning on March 19, 2025, about criminals impersonating police officers and bank staff to defraud vulnerable individuals. Two residents in Wellingborough were tricked into withdrawing large sums of money, totaling £15,000, which were collected by couriers. The fraudsters posed as police officers, instructing victims to withdraw cash as part of undercover operations. Detective Inspector Tania Ash emphasized that genuine police or bank officials would never ask individuals to withdraw or transfer money. Residents are urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. ([northants.police.uk](https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/march/warning-issued-as-fraudsters-impersonate-police-and-bank-staff/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/march/northamptonshire-police-issues-warning-following-courier-fraud-incident/> - On March 5, 2025, Northamptonshire Police issued a warning following a courier fraud incident in Northampton. An elderly woman was scammed out of more than £20,000 by fraudsters posing as police officers. The criminals contacted the victim, claiming her bank account was compromised, and instructed her to withdraw money for an investigation. The fraudsters then arranged for a courier to collect the funds. Detective Inspector Tania Ash advised residents to be cautious of unsolicited calls and to verify the identity of callers by contacting the police directly. ([northants.police.uk](https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/march/northamptonshire-police-issues-warning-following-courier-fraud-incident/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/courier-fraud-warning-after-couple-scammed-by-criminals-posing-as-police-officers> - Action Fraud issued a warning on May 12, 2019, after a couple in Wiltshire were defrauded by scammers posing as police officers. The fraudsters claimed to be investigating fraud and instructed the victims to withdraw a large sum of money, which was later collected by a courier. Detective Constable Emma Wood emphasized that genuine police officers would never ask individuals to withdraw money or hand it over to them. Residents are advised to be vigilant and report any suspicious calls. ([actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/courier-fraud-warning-after-couple-scammed-by-criminals-posing-as-police-officers?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/courier-fraud> - Action Fraud provides detailed information on courier fraud, a scam where fraudsters impersonate police officers or bank officials to deceive victims into withdrawing money or purchasing high-value items for collection by a courier. The guide outlines common tactics used by fraudsters, such as claiming fraudulent activity on bank accounts and instructing victims to withdraw funds for investigation. It also offers advice on how to protect oneself, including verifying the identity of callers and being cautious of unsolicited requests for personal or financial information. ([actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/courier-fraud?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/january/new-warning-issued-following-latest-courier-fraud-incident/> - Northamptonshire Police issued a warning on January 27, 2025, following two courier fraud incidents in Kettering. Fraudsters posing as police officers from the MET and Scotland Yard contacted vulnerable individuals, claiming their bank accounts were compromised. In one case, the victim was informed it was a scam after attempting to withdraw money at a supermarket. However, the fraudsters were able to use the bank card of the second victim, who handed it over along with the PIN. Residents are urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. ([northants.police.uk](https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/news/2025/january/new-warning-issued-following-latest-courier-fraud-incident/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/duo-jailed-impersonating-police-officers-defraud-victims-over-ps400000> - On December 19, 2023, the Crown Prosecution Service announced that two men, Mohammed Zaman Ahmed and Kawsar Ahmed, were sentenced to prison for defrauding victims of over £400,000 by impersonating police officers. The duo was part of an organized criminal gang that targeted elderly individuals across the country, convincing them to withdraw money and hand it over to a courier. Detective Inspector Matt Phillips from Gloucestershire Constabulary emphasized the severity of the crimes and the impact on vulnerable victims. ([cps.gov.uk](https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/duo-jailed-impersonating-police-officers-defraud-victims-over-ps400000?utm_source=openai))