Kent Fraud Alert System

Romance Scams

Forensic linguist Dr Liz Carter has been working closely with Police Forces across the UK looking at how Romance Fraudsters work and the language that they use. She says "they use techniques to manipulate the victim into a position they never thought they would be in e.g. legitimate urgency. This is when the fraudster manipulates a time critical situation to provoke the victim to act fast without thinking."

Remember, Romance Scammers are manipulative and spend lots of time researching their victim and getting to a position where they can apply pressure and panic them into sending money without thinking to assist with a non-existent medical emergency etc.

If you are currently speaking to someone you have met online, ask yourself these questions,

- Shortly after meeting them online, they told you that they are madly in love and want a relationship?
- They say that their job means they work abroad a lot and cannot meet at the moment?
- They always have an excuse for not meeting or speaking via a video chat?
- They have sent pictures that appear to be professionally taken and are posing in front of mountains or they are in uniform or with a group of work colleagues?
- They have given you a "hard luck" story and ask for your help financially?
- Have they told you to keep the relationship secret and not tell family and friends?



If you can answer yes to some or all the above, you may be a victim of a Romance Fraud. Report this to us by calling 101 and contact your Bank immediately.

Our Teams are always waiting to support you and so you should never feel embarrassed to ask for help.



Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online **www.kent.police.uk/report**Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 **www.kent.police.uk/contact**In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**If deaf or speech impaired, text '**police**' and your message to **60066**







