

Kent Fraud Alert System



Romance Scams

Tomorrow is #Caturday (on twitter)! Ripley's message for you all - "A cat can be cute but do you know who you really are talking to? Beware of Romance scams... anyone can be a target."

TO STOP FRAUD™

Criminals who tugged on the heartstrings of Kent victims defrauded innocent people out of £2.9 million last year. A total of 248 dating and romance related scams in the county were reported to Action Fraud between November 2020 and October 2021. Most of the victims were aged between 40 and 70 and over half were women.



Ripley says "Spot the signs"

- They want to communicate with you through instant messaging and texts, rather than through the dating website or chat room where you met.
- They ask you lots of questions about yourself but don't tell you much about themselves.
- They don't answer basic questions about where they live and work.
- Don't be convinced by profile pictures as they may have been taken from somewhere else on the internet.

Additionally, Ripley says, Fraudsters will use different scenarios, such as:

- Claiming to be military personnel based overseas who require funds for flights home or early discharge from the forces.
- Requiring money to pay for medical-related issues such as emergency surgery for themselves or a family member.
- They have arranged to visit you but need money to pay travel costs.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or calling 0300 123 2040.



**Kent
Police**

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**

www.kent.police.uk   