

# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## Rental Fraud

Rental fraud happens when fraudsters trick would-be tenants into paying an upfront fee for a property that does not exist or is not available to rent. Once the criminals have received payment, they cease contact with the victim.

### How to protect yourself from rental fraud -

- **Always view the property** - You or someone you trust, should view the property in-person before you sign any contracts or make payment.
- **Overseas students and workers** - If you need to secure accommodation in the UK from overseas, seek advice from the employer or university you are coming to. If you are unsure about anything a prospective landlord is asking you to do, speak to a trusted friend or family member, or seek professional independent advice.
- **Signs of fraud** - Use the information provided in the property listing, such as the address and photos, to look online for what other information you can find about the property you would like to rent. Fraudsters often steal information from legitimate listings to create fake listings of their own.
- **Payment method** - Where possible, avoid bank transfer payments; use credit or debit cards for better protection against fraud.

## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

This was a recent story on BBC news about victims of this type of fraud - [Friends left 'in tears' over £8k rental scam on London flat - BBC News](#)



If you have been a victim of any type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and reporting to Report Fraud at [Reporting cyber crime and fraud or phishing attempts - Report Fraud](#) or call 0300 123 2040.

Find out more by visiting our website at [Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#) and also from the Home Office at [Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams](#)



## Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.  
Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   