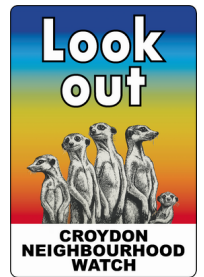


# CROYDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

February 2023



## Vital roles - Can you help?!

Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch (CBNWA) relies on a group of individuals who form the committee to ensure the smooth running of the organisation. Each committee member has a specific area of responsibility and as the age old saying goes "many hands make light work".

There are currently a number of volunteer vacancies on the committee including Treasurer, Website Manager and a Fundraising Manager. Do you feel you have the skill set to carry out one of these roles?

Perhaps you know someone who may have the required skills and would be willing to volunteer for us? If so, do pass our details onto them.

Remember volunteering looks great on your CV and is a way of providing valuable work experience.

Those who take up these roles will be fully supported by the CBNWA team. If you are interested in any of these roles please email [nhw@cbnwa.com](mailto:nhw@cbnwa.com)



**Croydon Borough  
Neighbourhood Watch  
NEEDS YOU!!!!**

**CROYDON BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WATCH NEEDS YOU!!!!**



[www.cbnwa.com](http://www.cbnwa.com) [nhw@cbnwa.com](mailto:nhw@cbnwa.com)

 [nhw @CBNWA](https://twitter.com/nhw_CBNWA)

# CYBER CRIME POLICE UPDATE & ADVICE

## Croydon Cyber Crime Summary January 2023

### Executive Summary

Number of offences	212
Total loss	£1,050,553.44
Average per victim	£4,955.44

### Top 5

The top 5 by **volume** (number of reports) type of fraud is as follows:

Fraud Type	Amount of Offences	Amount Lost
NFIB3A - Online Shopping and Auctions	28	£13,981.60
NFIB3D - Other Consumer Non Investment Fraud	25	£8,388.52
NFIB5A - Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (not PSP)	18	£108,240.48
NFIB1H - Other Advance Fee Frauds	12	£7,680.00
NFIB2E - Other Financial Investment	11	£17,204.40

The top 5 by **amount** reported lost:

Fraud Type	Amount Lost	Amount of Offences
NFIB19 - Fraud by Abuse of Position of Trust	£440,764.00	2
NFIB5D - Mandate Fraud	£143,590.24	2
NFIB5A - Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (not PSP)	£108,240.48	18
NFIB1D - Dating Scam	£93,050.16	9
NFIB2A - Share sales or Boiler Room Fraud	£44,666.67	4

### Fraud Advice

#### Banking and Card Fraud

Bank account fraud has occurred if transactions you haven't made show up on your bank statement. Bank account fraud could happen as a result of identity theft, when cards or bank account information has been stolen.

#### How to Protect Yourself

Don't throw out anything with your name, address or financial details without shredding it first.

If you receive an unsolicited email or phone call from what appears to be your bank or building society asking for your security details, never reveal your full password, login details or account numbers. Most banks will not approach their customers in this manner.

If you are concerned about the source of a call, ask the caller to give you a main switchboard number for you to be routed back to them. Alternatively, hang up and call your bank back on the legitimate phone number printed on your bank statements.

Check your statements carefully and report anything suspicious to the financial institution concerned.

# CYBER CRIME POLICE UPDATE & ADVICE

If you're expecting a bank or credit card statement and it doesn't arrive, tell your bank or Credit Card Company.

Don't leave things like bills lying around for others to look at.

If you move house, always get Royal Mail to redirect your post.

Get regular copies of your credit report from a credit reference agency.

Notify your bank immediately if you see any unusual activity on your account.

## Online Shopping and Auction Sites

Online shopping can save you time, effort and money. Millions of people use websites such as eBay and AutoTrader to buy new or second hand goods for competitive prices. These sites give you the opportunity to purchase a huge choice of goods from all over the world. However, among the genuine buyers and sellers on these sites, there are criminals who use the anonymity of the internet to offer goods for sale they do not have, or are fake.

In the majority of transactions, the buyer and seller never meet. Which means when making a purchase or sale on a website, you are reliant on the security measures of the site. Fraudsters will advertise an item for sale, frequently at a bargain price compared to other listings of a similar type. They may have pictures of the item so it appears to be a genuine sale.

A favoured tactic is to encourage buyers to move away from the website to complete the transaction, and the criminal may offer a further discount if you do so. Many websites offer users the opportunity to pay via a recognised, secure third party payment service, such as PayPal, Android Pay or Apple Pay. Read the website's advice and stick to it. Fraudsters might be insistent you pay via bank transfer instead. By communicating and paying away from the website, contrary to their policies, you risk losing any protection you had.

Criminals may also email or contact you if you have 'bid' on an item but not been successful in winning the auction. They will claim that the winning bidder pulled out or didn't have the funds and offer you the chance to buy the item. Once you agree, they will either provide bank details or even insist payment is made via a third party payment service for mutual protection. Once you agree, they 'arrange' this. You then receive a very legitimate looking email which appears to be from the website or a third party payment service directing you how to make the payment. Some are very sophisticated, even having 'Live Chat' functions that you can use to speak to a sales advisor! Unfortunately, you will again be communicating to the fraudster, so beware!



## Co-ordinator News

### "Upward trend on Oval Road and reflection on 2 years of Neighbourhood Watch"

We are celebrating our 2 year anniversary of Neighbourhood Watch in Oval Road, Addiscombe West. During this time we have supported our neighbours in many matters and we have also made friends and connected with the local community.

We significantly improved the state of an alleyway running along Ark Oval Primary Academy towards Cherry Orchard Road (Oval Passage). The passage had been neglected over many years and there was poor lighting, anti-social behaviour, drug paraphernalia and other litter until we raised the pressing question of ownership with Croydon Council (see below for another example of how difficult the litter situation had become). Croydon Council acted responsibly and have now added this area to their regular cleaning schedule. We continue to co-operate with the Council to facilitate even more improvements to the area.

We participated in a 'walk around' with the Addiscombe West SNT and Inspector James Weston and looked at crime hotspots on our road and nearby. We spoke about the PSPO and the effects of the growing town centre and the new entrance to East Croydon station adjacent to Oval Road. There will be further community engagement with the SNT which will be supported by our Neighbourhood Watch.

In December we showed around CBNWA Chair Paul Voden and spoke about the work we have done to improve the road and we also received the brilliant news that trees will be planted in Oval Road by the spring.

Neighbourhood Watch has made a great difference to us on Oval Road!

Keep looking out

Melanie Felten





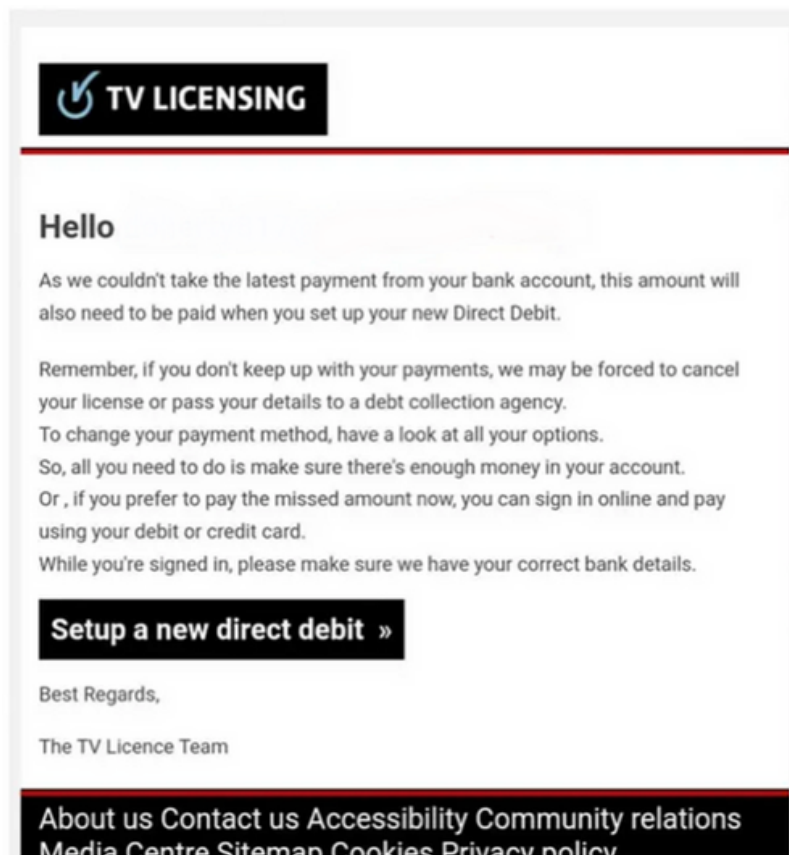
# Scam Alerts

## CROYDON TRADING STANDARDS COMMUNITY ALERT

### **TV Licensing scams doing the rounds again!**

**Fake emails purporting to be from TV Licensing are being used to lure people into giving away their bank details.**

**Scammers are sending fake emails using the official TV Licensing logo. The first email encourages the recipient to update their direct debit details.**



**TV Licensing confirmed that these emails are not genuine. It said genuine emails and letters are personalised to include information such as your name, part of your postcode or your licence number.**

**Please remember to report any scam to Action Fraud 0300 123 2040. If you have actually been the victim of a trader or scam such as the above and need help, or you require consumer advice, please call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 0808 223 1133**

**Please share any scams with [nhw@cbnwa.com](mailto:nhw@cbnwa.com)**

## Useful Contact Details



**Crime Stoppers:** If you wish to contact police anonymously you can contact Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or go to their website <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

**London Borough of Croydon:** switchboard 020 8726 6000 or via the free My Croydon app

**CROYDON Trading Standards:** 020 8407 1311, Email: [trading.standards@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@croydon.gov.uk)

**Citizens Advice Consumer Service:** 03454 04 05 06

**Croydon Council Antisocial behaviour team:** Email: [ASBTeam@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:ASBTeam@croydon.gov.uk)

**Croydon council Fly-tipping hotline:** 020 8604 7000 Email: [flytip@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:flytip@croydon.gov.uk)

**Graffiti reporting:** 020 8726 6200

**Abandoned vehicles:** If you want to check whether a car is taxed you can check here: [www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax](http://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax)

**Untaxed but NOT abandoned VEHICLES:** CAN BE reported via [www.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle](http://www.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle)

**Untaxed AND abandoned VEHICLES:** report to CrOYDON COUNCIL Abandoned Vehicle Section  
Email: [avs.parking@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:avs.parking@croydon.gov.uk)