

CROYDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

June 2023

Crime Prevention Day & AGM October 2023

Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch (CBNWA) invites YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS, & COLLEAGUES to the annual Crime Prevention Day 8.30am-3pm on Saturday 7th October 2023 at Royal Russell School.

There is a £10 contribution towards food/donation to CBNWA for the Crime Prevention Day. There is no cost to attend the AGM but please come at 2.55pm when the Crime Prevention Day has finished.

You need to reply to email nhw@cbnwa.com to book a place at the Crime Prevention Day please see details below for the bank transfer. We would prefer a transfer but reply to me if you need the address to send a cheque to.

Please quote reference: Your name & CBNWA

Please pay by Bank Transfer:

Bank: Lloyds Bank; A/C Name: CBNWA; Sort Code: 30-92-45; A/C Number: 03049348



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



www.cbnwa.com nhw@cbnwa.com

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

CYBER CRIME POLICE UPDATE & ADVICE

Croydon Cyber Crime Summary April 2023

Executive Summary

Number of offences	178
Total loss	£569,291.98
Average per victim	£3,198.27

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	31	£20,803.88
NFIB1H - Other Advance Fee Frauds	17	£28,707.00
NFIB5A - Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts (not PSP)	15	£5,705.78
NFIB3D - Other Consumer Non Investment Fraud	10	£261,729.38
Push Payment	10	£109,444.97

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

Fraud Type	Amount Lost	Amount of Offences
NFIB3D - Other Consumer Non Investment Fraud	£261,729.38	10
Push Payment	£109,444.97	10
NFIB5B - Application Fraud (excluding Mortgages)	£30,000.00	3
NFIB51B - Denial of Service Attack Extortion	£30,000.00	1
NFIB1H - Other Advance Fee Frauds	£28,707.00	17

Fraud Advice

Other Consumer Non Investment Fraud

Sometimes businesses use deceptive business practices that can cause their victims to suffer financial losses. The victims believe they are participating in a legal and valid business transaction when they are actually being defrauded. Fraud against consumers is often related to false promises or inaccurate claims made to consumers, as well as practices that directly cheat consumers out of their money.

How to protect yourself

Research the company before purchasing goods or services. Use Companies House to find out how long they have been trading.

Ensure you use trusted, reviewed companies.

Avoid using direct bank transfers when purchasing items online, instead use a credit card.

Push Payment Fraud

Online banking makes managing money easier for the general public, however criminals are taking advantage of this ease of banking and using it to defraud the public.

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Criminals can pretend to be from somewhere official, for example, your bank, or the tax office. They contact you via email, phone or social media, and then warn you of fake suspicious or criminal activity on your bank account. They state that they've set up a safe account for you to transfer your funds into. However, this is actually their account.

How to protect yourself

Be suspicious of a call out of the blue from someone claiming to be from a position of authority.

Take down the person's details (name, authority, department, branch etc.) and verify using independent source contact details.

A genuine official from the Police, your bank, HMRC or any other trusted authority will NEVER call you to ask you to verify your personal banking details, PIN or password, or threaten you with arrest.

Never transfer money into another account unless you are 100% certain of the owner of the account.

Your bank will never set up a "safe" account for you. If you are a victim, contact your bank as soon as possible, as they may be able to help stop the transfer.

Watch our video on Impersonation Fraud at www.met.police.uk/littlemedia

REMEMBER – Your bank will never set up a "safe account".

CAUTION – Unless you definitely know who the account belongs to, it might not be safe.

THINK – Who told me this account was safe? Have I checked their identity?

Advance Fee Fraud

Advance Fee Fraud is an umbrella term to describe a particular fraud type where the criminal convinces a victim to make upfront payments for goods, services and/or financial gains. But the goods/services don't exist.

Many different types of Advance Fee Fraud using various techniques and scams are used by criminals. Some of these (including Romance Fraud and Recruitment Fraud) are covered more in-depth later in this book. However, the numerous different tactics used by criminals means it's worth describing the basic technique behind the fraud; the criminal will offer something to you, but in order to progress, you'll need to pay something up front. Below is a list of types of Advance Fee Fraud. This list is by no means exhaustive!

Clairvoyant or Psychic Fraud – The criminal predicts something significant in your future, but they need money to provide a full report.

Cheque Overpayment Fraud – The criminal overpays for something with an invalid cheque, and asks for change.

Fraud Recovery Fraud – Once you've been a victim of fraud, the criminal contacts you, claiming that they can recover your losses, for a fee.



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Inheritance Fraud – The criminal tells you that you're in line to receive a huge inheritance, but you'll need to pay a fee to release the funds.

Loan Fraud – The criminal asks you to pay an upfront fee for a loan.

Lottery Fraud – You're told you've won a prize in a lottery, but you'll need to pay the criminal an admin fee.

Racing Tip Fraud – The criminal offers racing tips that are "guaranteed" to pay off, for a small fee.

Rental Fraud – The criminal asks for an upfront fee to rent a property, which may not be theirs, or even may not exist.

West African Letter Fraud (aka 419 Fraud) – The criminal asks for help moving a large sum of money from one country to another, promising to cut you in, but asks for a payment upfront first.

Work from home Fraud – The criminal offers you to make easy money working from home, but you need to pay a fee in advance, for business leads, or a website.

Vehicle Matching Fraud – The criminal contacts you just after you've placed an advert trying to sell something (usually a car). They ask for a "refundable" fee to put you in touch with a non-existent immediate buyer.

How to protect yourself

Be extremely wary about giving money to anyone upfront, especially a stranger, for any reason.

If they claim to be an official, double check their identity, but don't do so using any contact details they give you.

Don't be pressurised into making a decision in that moment. Always take time to think, don't forget to Take 5.

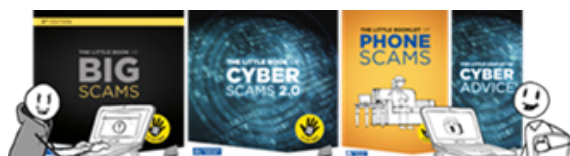
REMEMBER – Criminals will try any lie to get your money.

CAUTION – Don't give money upfront if you have even the slightest suspicion.

THINK – Why should I give this person money? Why have they targeted me?

All of our videos and electronic leaflets can be found on the following link;
www.met.police.uk/littlemedia

Free cyber advice can be found <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home>



Co-ordinator Nominations NOW OPEN

We are pleased to announce the National Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer Awards. This year, the Volunteer Recognition Awards 2023 focuses on Neighbourhood Watch groups and Coordinators who make this borough a better place to live.

Following on from the huge success of our Volunteer Recognition Awards last year, we are delighted to let you know that nominations for this year's Awards will be open from the 3rd of June to the 7th of July.

In 2022 we were humbled to award 3,255 Neighbourhood Watch volunteers with certificates celebrating their length of service. Together they achieved more than 34,460 combined years of volunteering for our charity. Celebrations were held nationwide, including Warwickshire, Humberside, Croydon, and Central London, where the Safeguarding Minister thanked a few founding volunteers for their commitment to building a safer and better-connected community.

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/volunteerawards>

Please take the time to nominate a co-ordinator or group (you may recognise a fellow co-ordinator as going above and beyond) and please feel free to send this out to your residents as I'm sure they would want to have the wonderful work you are doing recognised. Once you have clicked on the link the form only takes a few moments to complete. The deadline is Friday 7th July.



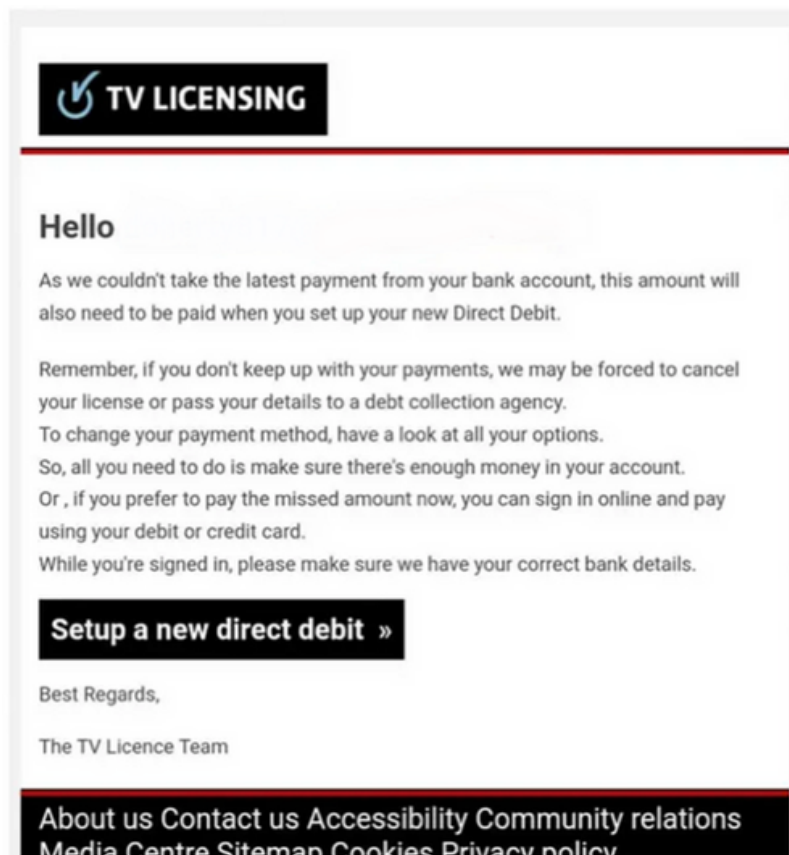
Scam Alerts

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

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

Citizens Advice Consumer Service: 03454 04 05 06

Croydon Council Antisocial behaviour team: Email: ASBTeam@croydon.gov.uk

Croydon council Fly-tipping hotline: 020 8604 7000 Email: 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

Untaxed but NOT abandoned VEHICLES: CAN BE reported via www.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle

Untaxed AND abandoned VEHICLES: report to CrOYDON COUNCIL Abandoned Vehicle Section
Email: avs.parking@croydon.gov.uk