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06 AUGUST 2019



Universal Credit Scam Alert



Action Fraud has received reports of a scam targeting people with offers of 'low cost' loans or 'free' government grants. Victims have reported being offered these loans on their doorstep, on the phone, or via social media.

How this scam works:

- The criminal uses the personal information supplied by the victim for the bogus loan to make an application in their name for Universal Credit.

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of Work & Pensions (DWP) requesting the repayments for the advance.

Protect yourself:

- Never give out personal information or financial information in response to a cold call whether in person, via telephone or social media.
- DWP will never approach you in the street or ask for personal or financial information over social media.
- If you have concerns about your benefits, visit: www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus
- If you suspect your identity may have been stolen, you can check your credit rating quickly and easily online.
- If you have already been contacted by these scammers [report it to Action Fraud](#). The information you give to Action Fraud can help track down the criminals.
- If you have lost money to the scammers, contact Kent Police by calling **101**

[More information on the scam.](#)

Please warn friends and family members.

Report it

Doorstep crime is financial abuse

Be alert to signs that someone you know has fallen prey to financial abuse. Anyone can be a target, but criminals will often target people when they are most vulnerable. Watch the video below to see how victims are targeted. If you have concerns about a neighbour, family member, friend, patient, client or someone you visit, [click here to learn about the questions to ask and how to report the crime.](#)

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For advice and to report issues to **KCC Trading Standards** contact [Citizens Advice consumer service](#) on **03454 04 05 06** Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

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