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# Business Watch

## Police Scotland Business Advice

**July 2021**

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Should this bulletin be sent to one of your colleagues as well as you? If you are 'moving on' please let us know a new contact within your company to send the bulletin to.

If you have any sister companies or businesses you work closely with who you think would benefit from this bulletin (check with them first) then please let us know.

If you no longer wish to receive this bulletin then please let us know at [NorthEastCrimeReduction@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NorthEastCrimeReduction@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

**URGENT MESSAGES WILL BE SENT OUT AS APPROPRIATE**

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### Scottish Polymer £50 banknotes

Please find attached an educational leaflet for the new Scottish polymer £50 banknotes.

**Bank of Scotland's polymer £50 were issued on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021**

**The Royal Bank of Scotland's polymer £50 will be issued on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

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## Trading Standards Scotland Bulletin

The Trading Standards Scotland Bulletin looks at some of the most recent scams reported by consumers across Scotland. It is available by clicking on the link here

<https://mailchi.mp/dc98ace41351/scam-share>

The latest fortnightly Aberdeenshire Trading Standards newsletter is attached to this email.

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### Voucher / gift card scams

**A number of businesses in the North East have recently fallen victim to gift card scams. Typically employees receive an email pretending to be from their boss asking the employee to purchase vouchers for staff as ‘a reward.’**

A voucher or gift card scam can also take place when unsuspecting victims are approached by fraudsters and persuaded to pay bills, fees or debts using gift cards or other vouchers such as Amazon or iTunes.

Following the purchase, the victim is asked to read out over the phone or email the 16-digit code (in the case of iTunes gift cards) on the back of the card. The fraudster then either sells the codes on, or purchases high-value products, at the expense of the victim.

According to HMRC, the average loss is £1,150 and most victims are over 65 years of age – although anybody is vulnerable.

North East Division Crime Reduction Officer PC Mike Urquhart said ‘No reputable organisation would ask for payment of a bill or debt using vouchers or gift cards. You should never reveal the codes on vouchers or gift cards you have purchased apart from entering them on official websites as full or part payment for goods or services.’

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### Rental Frauds

Police are warning residents in the North East to remain vigilant about rental fraud and scams. This follows a report of a residential property in Elgin being advertised for rent fraudulently. A woman paid £500 deposit on the property, which turned out to be a scam. Investigations into this incident are ongoing.

North East Crime Reduction Officer Constable Richard Russell said “If you are looking for a property to rent, never part with money before viewing the property and verifying the landlord’s details. The Landlord Registry Service ([www.landlordregistrationscotland.gov.uk](http://www.landlordregistrationscotland.gov.uk)) provides details of most private landlords.

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Fraudsters will often tell you there is a lot of interest in the property and to secure it you must send money even without having visiting the property. Make sure you visit the property with a reputable agent or landlord and consider speaking to the neighbours. Scammers have used the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse for the tenant being unable to view the property in person and instead send photographs. Be suspicious of anyone who refuses to let you visit the property. Ask for ID from the landlord to establish they are who they say they are. Ask to see copies of the tenancy agreement, safety certificates or HMO Licence.

Beware of adverts with no telephone numbers and make sure the number works and not a fax number fraudsters find on the internet. Transfer funds to a bank account having obtained the details by contacting the landlord or agent directly after the above steps have been followed. If the bank account is not in their name, this is very likely to be a scam and you should not make any payments.



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## Does your company have a Cycle to Work Scheme?

Businesses that offer the Cycle to Work scheme to employees are being asked to encourage staff to sign up to Bike Register. Owned by Selectamark, BikeRegister is the only national Police approved cycle database. Registering on BikeRegister means you could be reunited with your bike in the event of it being stolen

The BikeRegister website allows customers to access their account, and Police to check stolen bikes, on smart phones and tablets whilst on the go. The site also enables members of the public to check 2nd hand bikes to assist them in trying to avoid purchasing stolen goods. All bike owners are encouraged to register their bikes for free at [www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com)



## How can we provide the best support to people affected by crime?

Police Scotland and Victim Support Scotland are working on a collaborative project to ensure that people affected by crime, either as a victim or witness, receive the best and most appropriate aftercare. As part of this project, a survey has been launched which covers various themes, such as:

- the aftercare options provided by Police Scotland (for people who have been a survivor or witness of crime)
- discussion about referral to support services
- views about how Police Scotland can best support survivors/witnesses of crime in relation to providing immediate support and information.

The survey can be accessed at the following link:

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/views-about-support-aftercare-for-people-who-exper/>

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## Sign Up for Neighbourhood Alert for free

A great way in which Police can share information is via the Neighbourhood Alert system, which is delivered by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland. This enables us to send out e-mail messages relating to local crime trends and share crime prevention advice quickly and effectively to a wide audience. The information can also be targeted to particular groups, streets, or communities as required.

Anyone can sign-up to receive these e-mail messages, either individually or as a community group. The sign-up process allows you to specify the type of information you are interested in and from what source. This is coordinated by our partners in Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, who work with a range of partners in the public sector to provide information not only on crime, but also about community safety and resilience. We only send out messages which contribute to keeping you informed and safe.

In these uncertain times, Neighbourhood Alert is recognized as a trusted source of information. Please consider taking a moment to sign-up for Neighbourhood Alert e-mail messages, and encourage family, friends and neighbor's to do the same. Over 23,000 people across Scotland have joined so far, with more joining every day. You can join too, without setting up a Neighbourhood Watch.

Simply visit

[www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk)

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## CyberScotland

For up-to-date information on scams and cyber-related crimes visit

<https://www.cyberscotland.com/>

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**Crimestoppers** - <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

**Tel. 0800 555 111**

SPEAK UP. STAY SAFE - CRIMESTOPPERS are an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime 100% anonymously.

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**ARE YOU READY FOR A LIFE CHANGING CAREER? -**

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/recruitment/police-officers/>



As always please share the above information with your colleagues.

### **Crime Reduction Unit**

North East Division

Police Scotland, 230 Abbotswell Crescent, Aberdeen, AB12 3JT

Email: [NorthEastCrimeReduction@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NorthEastCrimeReduction@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Website: [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/NorthEPolice](https://www.twitter.com/NorthEPolice)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision](https://www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision)

*Police Scotland's North East Division covers rural and urban areas in Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. The division has five territorial command areas which have their own dedicated Area Commander, who is responsible for the daily policing function. Each command area is served by a number of community policing teams whose activities are built around the needs of the local community. These teams respond to local calls and look for long term solutions to key issues. They are assisted by the division's Crime Reduction Unit who deliver against Force and local priorities in a number of areas, including physical and social crime prevention, supporting and enhancing community engagement and creating and sustaining strong and effective partnership working*