



VILLAGE WATCH



Newsletter of South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch
in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police
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➤ SCAMS DEALING WITH SUSPICIOUS E-MAILS AND TEXT MESSAGES

Criminals want to convince you to do something which they can use to their advantage. In a scam e-mail or text message, their goal may be to get you to click a link. Once clicked, you may be sent to a dodgy website which could download viruses onto your computer, or steal your passwords and personal information.

Over the phone, the approach may be more direct, asking you for sensitive information, such as banking details. They do this by pretending to be someone you trust, or from some organisation you trust. This could be your Internet Service Provider (ISP), local council, even a friend in need. They may contact you by phone call, email or text message. The term 'phishing' is often used when talking about emails.

These scam messages can be very hard to spot. They are designed to get you to react without thinking. If you think you've already responded to a scam, don't panic, there are things you can do to limit any harm.

❖ Spotting suspicious messages

Spotting scam messages and phone calls is becoming increasingly difficult. However, there are some tricks that criminals will use to try and get you to respond without thinking. Things to look out for are:

- Authority - Is the message claiming to be from someone official? For example, your bank, doctor, a solicitor, or a government department. Criminals often pretend to be important people or organisations to trick you into doing what they want.
- Urgency - Are you told you have a limited time to respond (such as 'within 24 hours' or 'immediately')? Criminals often threaten you with fines or other negative consequences.
- Emotion - Does the message make you panic, fearful, hopeful or curious? Criminals often use threatening language, make false claims of support, or tease you into wanting to find out more.
- Scarcity - Is the message offering something in short supply, like concert tickets, money or a cure for medical conditions? Fear of missing out on a good deal or opportunity can make you respond quickly.
- Current events - Are you expecting to see a message like this? Criminals often exploit current news stories, big events or specific times of year (like tax reporting) to make their scam seem more relevant.
- If it could be genuine - If you think a message or call might really be from an organisation you have an existing relationship with, like your bank, and you want to be sure:
 - ✓ Go back to something you can trust. Visit the official website, log in to your account, or phone their advertised phone number. Don't use the links or contact details in the message you have been sent or given over the phone.
 - ✓ Check to see if the official source has already told you what they will never ask you. For example, your bank may have told you that they will never ask for your password.

❖ Reporting suspicious messages

The message might be from a company you don't normally receive communications from, or someone you do not know. If you are suspicious, you should report it. By doing so you'll be helping to protect many more people from being affected. See more information about the following topics on the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) site: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk>

E-mail

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) at report@phishing.gov.uk

Website

If you have come across a website which you think may be fake and trying to scam you, it can be reported using an online form.

Text message

Phone providers allow you to report suspicious text messages for free using the shortcode 7726. If you forward a text to this number, your provider can investigate the origin of the text and take action, if found to be malicious. There are instructions on the NCSC site to:

- Forward a suspicious text message on an iPhone
- Forward a suspicious text message on an Android phone

If 7726 doesn't work, you can find out how to report a text message by contacting your provider.

❖ **What to do if you've already responded**

- If you've been tricked into providing your banking details, contact your bank and let them know.
- If you think your account has already been hacked (you may have received messages sent from your account that you don't recognise, or you may have been locked out of your account), refer to the guidance on recovering a hacked account:00
<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/recovering-a-hacked-account>
- If you received the message on a work laptop or phone, contact your IT department.
- If you opened a link on your computer, or followed instructions to install software, open your antivirus (AV) software if you have it, and run a full scan and allow your AV software to clean up any problems.
- If you've given out your password, change the passwords on any of your accounts which use the same password.
- If you've lost money, tell your bank and report it as a crime to Action Fraud.

➤ **CONTACTS**

- ❖ **SY Police:** <https://www.southyorks.police.uk>
- ❖ **Emergencies:** call 999: when there is a threat to life (including traffic accidents where persons are injured, the road is blocked or a vehicle involved in the accident has failed to stop); violence to a person or damage to property is imminent; a suspected offender is at the scene of a crime or any delay in reporting the incident may prevent the offender being apprehended; serious disruption to the public is currently taking place or is likely to take place.
- ❖ **Non-emergencies: call 101:** to report a crime not currently taking place, or to give information. Calls to 101 cost 15 pence per call from landlines and mobiles - no matter how long you're on the phone.
- ❖ **Crimestoppers:** report crime or suspicious activity anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 Monday-Friday 08:00-22:00; Saturday and Sunday 10:00-16:00 or online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>
- ❖ **Action Fraud:** To report fraud if you have been scammed, defrauded or experienced cyber crime: the Action Fraud contact centre: 0300 123 2040. You may make the report anonymously. Text phone users can ring 0300 123 2050. Report fraud online at www.actionfraud.police.uk
- ❖ **South Anston Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:** Bryan Saunby: 01909 565194

CRIMES REPORTED IN SOUTH ANSTON IN NOVEMBER

| Crime on or near | Crime Category | Crime on or near | Crime Category |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Bank Street | Other theft | Mill Lane | Criminal damage/arson |
| Bank Street | Vehicle crime | Mill Lane | Violence offences |
| Freesia Close | Anti-social behaviour | Petrol Station | Public order x 2 |
| Lidsters Lane | Other theft | Petrol Station | Violence offences x 2 |
| Lobelia Court | Criminal damage/arson x 2 | Sports/Rec Area | Anti-social behaviour |
| Lobelia Court | Violence offences | St David's Drive | Burglary |
| Mill Lane | Burglary | Wilberforce Road | Other theft |

CRIMES REPORTED IN NORTH ANSTON IN NOVEMBER

| Crime on or near | Crime Category | Crime on or near | Crime Category |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Ambleside Walk | Criminal damage/arson | Eastwood Avenue | Drugs |
| Appleby Walk | Burglary | Edinburgh Drive | Burglary |
| Back Lane | Anti-social behaviour x 2 | Ennerdale Close | Violence offences x 2 |
| Back Lane | Public order | Falcon Way | Criminal damage/arson x 2 |
| Back Lane | Violence offences | Falcon Way | Public order |
| Bennett Croft | Violence offences | Falcon Way | Violence offences |
| Brook Mews | Vehicle crime | Hanging Bank Court | Violence offences |
| Caperns Road | Burglary | Hawkshead Crescent | Vehicle crime |
| Caperns Road | Criminal damage/arson | Houghton Road | Vehicle crime |
| Caperns Road | Violence offences x 2 | Netherthorpe Way | Criminal damage/arson |
| Cramfit Road | Public order | Netherthorpe Way | Violence offences |
| Cramfit Road | Other crime | Sanctuary Fields | Anti-social behaviour |
| Derwent Close | Violence offences | Sanctuary Fields | Violence offences |
| Derwent Close | Other crime | Sports/Rec Area | Violence offences |
| Dukeries Drive | Vehicle crime | Sunnyside Close | Burglary |