

# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## What is Brushing?

I have received a few requests for an alert to explain how the scam Brushing works?

Brushing involves an unscrupulous seller or an agent acting on behalf of the seller, sending usually cheap-to-ship items to unsuspecting people and then falsely logging it as a genuine sale in order to artificially inflate sales volumes.

The people that receive the items do not have to pay for them.

However, as a result, potential customers risk being misled into choosing products that are not as good as they seem when shopping online.

While this may seem odd at first, it is all about exploiting companies like Amazon's search ranking system. The algorithm favours items with high sales volumes and positive reviews, which will lead potential customers to these sites.

For further information and advice about Fraud, visit our website at -

[Advice about fraud | Kent Police](#)



## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



### Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm

Get the latest  
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



**Kent  
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.

Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

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## Sainsburys Scam Email

I have had an email forwarded to me from a Kent resident in relation to a fake email they received impersonating Sainsbury's (see below).

It was sent from a Gmail address with no links to Sainsburys. It is offering a free "Stanley Quencher Flowstate Tumbler" and all you have to do is click on a link to get the process started. However, this will take you to a website under the control of the criminals where they will seek to steal your personal and financial data.

If you receive this or any other suspicious emails, then please forward to – [Report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:Report@phishing.gov.uk)

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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## Sainsbury's

### **Congratulations!**

We're thrilled to inform you that you've been chosen to receive a brand new Stanley Quencher Flowstate Tumbler

This exciting opportunity comes FREE of charge to you, and all it takes is a moment of your time to secure this fantastic prize.

To claim your Stanley Quencher Flowstate Tumbler, simply follow the link below:

[>> CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED NOW <<](#)

The process is very quick and easy, just visit the link above to get started!

Thank You, Sainsbury's Customer Care

[Click here to unsubscribe.](#)

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## Latest Solar Panel Email Scam

Watch out for these FAKE solar panel emails. Action Fraud have received over 900 reports about these emails which request that you click on a link, where you will be directed to a realistic website under the control of the criminals and is designed to steal your personal and financial data.

If you receive this or any other suspicious emails, then please forward to – [Report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:Report@phishing.gov.uk)

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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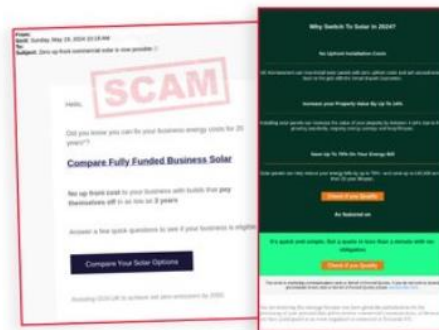
## Solar panels scam emails

Action Fraud received 971 reports in the last two weeks about phishing emails relating to solar panels. The emails ask recipients to check their eligibility for funding to cover the upfront costs of installing solar panels. The links in the email lead to a request to enter financial and personal information or download malware.

### HOW TO DEAL WITH SUSPICIOUS MESSAGES

If you have doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. **Don't** use the numbers or address in the message – use the details from their official website. Your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email.

Spotted a suspicious email? Forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) - [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)



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## One for our business community

Criminals are highly active now impersonating CEO and suppliers requesting changes in payment details, also known as “payment diversion fraud.”

If you receive a request like this then follow the below advice –

- **STOP:** If you receive a request to make an urgent payment, change supplier bank details or provide financial information, take a moment to stop and think.
- **CHALLENGE:** Could it be fake? Verify all payments and supplier details directly with the company on a known phone number or in person first or with your CEO.
- **PROTECT:** Contact your business bank immediately if you think you have been scammed and report it to Action Fraud.

Stay vigilant and stay suspicious of urgent payment requests.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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## Investment Scams – Do not feel pressured

We are seeing an increase in reporting of these types of scams with some victims losing tens of thousands of pounds.

The fraudsters are enticing people with glossy websites and promises of high returns on investments but you need to invest NOW!

Crypto related scams seem to still be the most popular with victims sending money to be invested only to discover there is no actual investment.

If you are considering investing always seek independent financial advice and do not feel pressured in deciding there and then.

For more information visit the Kent Police website at –

[Banking, payment card, investment and pension fraud | Kent Police](#)

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

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ActionFraud  
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#InvestmentFraud

**Fallen victim to investment fraud?  
Report.**

If you have fallen victim to investment fraud, please report it to Action Fraud online or by calling 0300 123 2040.



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