

Essex Police Fraud Alert System

35

7th May 2021

MY INFO? I DON'T THINK SO!

Residents are reminded to keep their personal documents safe after a number of reports of scammers asking for copies of passports and driving licences.

Essex Police have seen a recent trend in scammers requesting personal details which can be used to steal someone's identity. This has been linked to a number of different scams including:

- HMRC/National Insurance fraud where the criminal claims they need your personal details to prevent prosecution or reinstate your NI number.
- Computer software frauds where the criminal claims to be from your internet provider. They take control of your computer and say they need to take a photo of you and your driving licence/passport to confirm your identity.

Requests for personal details should always be a red flag. You should never provide this information unless you have confirmed who you are dealing with. To protect your information and your money, Take Five:

- **STOP** - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **CHALLENGE** - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT** - If you have provided personal details to someone over the phone and you now believe this to be a scam, contact your bank, building society and credit card company immediately and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.



DID YOU KNOW?

Over 70's can renew their driving licence **for free** with the DVLA?

For those under 70 it costs £14 and should be completed via www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence or via the letter sent to your home address.



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on 101
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online **at** essex.police.uk

