

# COURIER FRAUD - PRINCES RISBOROUGH

## ***PLEASE DO NOT IGNORE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT***

Elderly and vulnerable residents in Princes Risborough are being targeted by courier fraudsters.

Courier fraudster's phone and trick victims into handing large sums of cash to a courier that arrives at their home.

Thames Valley Police is calling on friends and family to help tackle the problem by talking to elderly or vulnerable friends and relatives.

This week alone in the RISBOROUGH area, we have received reports of some very large sums of money be handed over.

The talk should cover:

- Never deal with cold callers on the phone or in person, no matter how polite or friendly they are. Saying no thank you and shutting the door or hanging up the phone is not rude
- Your bank, the police or anyone legitimate will never send a courier to your home to collect your money, your bank cards, and they will never ask for your pin number. Close the door, lock it, and call 101 to speak to the police
- Keep a mobile phone next to the landline, and if you want to make a phone call immediately after hanging up the landline, always use the other phone
- If you do hand over your bank details or cards, do not panic. Call your bank immediately using another phone, such as a mobile phone, explain what has happened and cancel your cards
- Legitimate callers will never try to rush you, scare you, or force you into anything. If you feel scared or pressured at any point, hang up or shut the door and tell someone what has happened. There are many variations of the courier scam, but it usually follows this method:
- A fraudster will cold call the victim on a landline, often claiming to be from the victim's bank, the police, a fraud investigator.
- The fraudster states their systems have spotted a fraudulent payment in the victims account, or that they need the victims help in investigating fraudulent activity at their bank
- In order to reassure the victim that they are genuine, they suggest that the victim hangs up and rings the bank/police back straight away. However, they do not disconnect the call from the landline so that when the real phone number is dialled, they are actually still speaking to the fraudster
- Finally, the fraudsters will send a courier to collect cash from the victim's home address, or to take the victim to their bank to withdraw the money. The fraudster will have then obtained the victim's name, address, full bank details, card and PIN

***If you receive this type of call, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or via their website. In an emergency dial 999.***