



Elderly local residents are being targeted by scammers purporting to be police.

Residents are called on their home phones by someone claiming to be a police officer. The caller informs the resident that a fraudulent transaction has been made on their card/account and asks for their help to catch the offender/s. Residents are told that their bank maybe involved in the scam and are therefore asked to withdraw cash to establish whether their bank are circulating counterfeit notes.

Once the resident withdraws cash, the scammer then asks them to read out the serial numbers contained within the notes which they then confirm is counterfeit. They arrange to send a courier around to collect the 'counterfeit' cash, sometimes scamming the victim out of thousands of pounds!

There can be different variations to the scam in terms of the offender claiming to be from the police or sometimes from a bank. The offender may sometimes ask the resident to withdraw cash, whilst on other occasions they may ask for it to be electronically transferred. It all forms part of the scam and more information can be found on our Thames Valley Police Website:

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/phone-scams>

The scammers emphasise the need for discretion and tell the resident they cannot speak to friends or family due to it being part of an ongoing investigation and tell them they cannot speak to the bank as they are not trustworthy and being investigated. This is designed to isolate the resident.

**Police will never ask you to withdraw or transfer money to help them. Banks will never ask you to withdraw or transfer money to help them.**

Since May this year, there have been 24 incidents of this nature in the Chiltern and South Bucks area; predominantly centred in and around Beaconsfield. Nine of these attempts were successful and continue to be investigated by police.

If you believe you have been scammed or are in any doubt, please contact police on 101 to discuss any calls you may have received.

Please share this information with elderly friends, relatives and neighbours. If you are part of a group attended predominantly by elderly residents and feel they would benefit from a crime prevention talk around Fraud, then please get in touch with one of your neighbourhood officers by emailing [beaconsfield@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:beaconsfield@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

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