



## Operation Prospero: Courier Fraud attempts in Worcestershire

Criminals pretending to be police officers are attempting to defraud people in Worcestershire, in a scam known as 'Courier Fraud'. The scheme can be very elaborate and convincing, but it is vital to remember that no police officer from any force or department will **ever** ask you for bank details of any kind, or to hand over funds, regardless of their name or unit.

If you think someone is trying to scam you on the telephone, hang up, wait ten minutes, and then call 101. If the crime is still in progress because, for example, you have recently provided bank details, handed over cash, are going to visit your bank, or the caller has arranged for someone to visit your address to collect items, you should call the police on 101 to report this. In an emergency, dial 999.

As Commissioner, one of my priorities is to put victims first, and this type of fraud is particularly abhorrent as the victims tend to be older and more vulnerable. However, the force have also received reports of younger people, some in their 30s, falling victim to the scam. This reminds us of the importance of all age groups to remain vigilant, as the criminals continue to adapt their approach.

I would like to reassure people that the force is taking this very seriously, and I will continue to support them as they work in partnership with local banks to clamp down on this issue. I would also like to encourage anyone who has been contacted in this way to report it, as well as talking to each other and warning others.

**The police will never...**

-  Contact you to ask for your PIN or bank details
-  Ask to withdraw cash to hand over to them for safe-keeping
-  Ask you transfer money out of your account for fraud reasons
-  Send someone to your home to collect cash, PINs, or cards

 Action Fraud  
Report a scam  
0300 1234 567