

## Action Fraud: How to protect yourself from Pet Fraud

- 1 Do your research:** if you're making a purchase from a website or person you don't know and trust, carry out thorough research first and look at reviews.
- 2 Trust your instincts:** if you're unable to view the animal in person ask for a video call. If you're buying a young animal make sure you're able to see the mother and rest of the litter.
- 3 Choose your payment method wisely:** avoid paying by bank transfer. Credit card or payment services like PayPal give you a better chance of recovering your money if you become a victim of fraud.



To find out more about how to protect yourself from pet fraud visit: [actionfraud.police.uk/petfraud](https://actionfraud.police.uk/petfraud)

## Take Five and Mencap create an Easy Read Guide on Scams



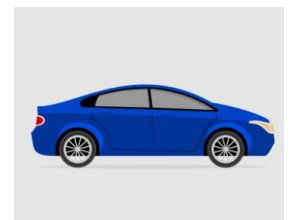
Take Five has teamed up with Mencap to help people with learning disabilities stay safe from scams.

The easy read guide is a resource that makes written information easier to understand by using simple language and illustrating the information with pictures. The guide has a particular focus on impersonation scams and romance scams and has been reviewed by a panel of people with learning disabilities for their feedback. View the Easy Read here:

[Accessibility Toolkit | Take Five \(takefive-stopfraud.org.uk\)](https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk)

## Number Plate Theft

Stolen number plates can be used to disguise another car to aid crimes like ram-raiding, burglary, evading congestion charges, changing the identity of a stolen car so it can be sold, or driving off from petrol stations without paying.



Consider fitting your number plate with anti-theft security screws, which can be turned easily with a screwdriver to fit them but can't be undone using normal tools.

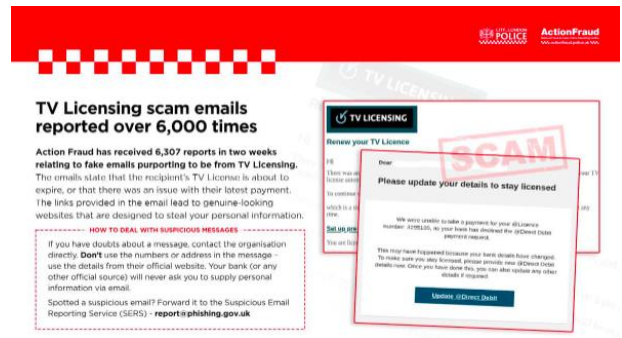
If your number plate does get stolen report it to the police (at [www.hampshire.police.uk](https://www.hampshire.police.uk) or call 101), the DVLA and your insurance company. Replace your number plates as it is illegal to drive without them. Registered and authorised suppliers are listed on the DVLA website: [www.gov.uk/number-plate-supplier](https://www.gov.uk/number-plate-supplier)

## Fake TV Licensing Emails

Action Fraud have received over 6000 reports in two weeks regarding fake emails claiming to be from TV Licensing. The email states that the licence is about to expire or there was an issue with the last payment.

Remember to always contact the organisation directly using contact details from their official website, don't use the contact details provided in the email or click on any links.

You can report suspicious emails by forwarding them to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)



## Get Safe Online - Date Safe Advice



Online dating is a popular way to meet someone, and January is the busiest time of year for both new and experienced online daters. However, this means that it's also a very busy time for cybercriminals, posing as suitors to steal your money or identity, or both. [Get Safe Online have 10 top tips.](#)

- ♥ If somebody you've met online asks you to send money, bank details or passwords, don't do it, whatever their hard luck story or other reason they give for needing it.
- ♥ Do a reverse image search to check if the profile photo is genuine or of somebody else, start by searching 'Search with an image on Google'.
- ♥ Tell a friend or family member where you're going before meeting up with an online date in person for the first time.

## Dedicated Neighbourhood Officers (Local Bobbies)

The force has identified and allocated 99 officers to be named Local Bobbies. As a neighbourhood policing officer dedicated to your area, they will be highly visible in the community, listening to your concerns and addressing root causes of crime.

Find your Local Bobby by entering your postcode on [Hampshire Alert](#).



## Hampshire Alert



Hampshire Alert is a free messaging service that allows Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary, Neighbourhood Watch and other partner organisations to keep you informed about issues in your area that are relevant to you.

To sign up please visit:

<https://hampshirealert.co.uk/>



Visit [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)



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