

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Subject: " Fraudsters selling non-existent drones "



This is a message sent via The Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network (England & Wales). This information has been sent on behalf of Action Fraud (National Fraud Intelligence Bureau)

Action Fraud is not an emergency service - dial 999 if you are in immediate danger.

Message sent by Action Fraud (Action Fraud, Administrator, National)

Online shopping websites are being utilised by fraudsters to advertise nonexistent drones of various specifications for competitive prices.

Drones are personal flying devices that often carry cameras and can be navigated remotely by smartphones or hand-held controllers. Fraudsters are capitalising on their recent popularity and advertising non-existent drones at a lower value than their recommended retail price to tempt buyers.

After victims agree to purchase the drone, the fraudsters request payment to be paid via bank transfer saying that it will quicken the delivery process. After transferring the money the buyers never receive the drone and the fraudster blocks the victim to prevent further conversation.

How to protect yourself:

- Check the validity of the post.
- Avoid paying by bank transfer and instead use an online payment option such as PayPal, which helps to protect you.
- Check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller. Feedback will give you useful information about recent transactions other buyers may have made.
- If the item is below market value consider whether this is an opportunity too good to be true.
- If you have been affected by this, or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

If you think you may have compromised the safety of your bank details and/or have lost money due to fraudulent misuse of your cards, you should immediately contact your bank, and report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

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*Addition from JC - If you suspect an email that you have received may be fraudulent, you can also Report by **Forwarding** to email address "NFIBPhishing@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk" or by telephone **0300 123 2040...**

'Forwarding' gives the Police the background information regarding the potentially Fraudulent email so that they can, if necessary, trace it back to the Originator.

Don't 'Reply' to the email since this confirms to the Sender that your email address is indeed 'Live'.

Also, don't automatically trust contact details supplied by the person contacting you.

If you need/want to contact the supposed 'Originator' then look the address up yourself via a known reputable source, such as an independent 'Google Search', Yellow Pages or the like.

Pulham Market Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator