



Romance scams involve people being duped into sending money to criminals who go to great lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship. They use language to manipulate, persuade and exploit so that requests for money do not raise alarm bells. These requests might be highly emotive, such as criminals claiming they need money for emergency medical care, or to pay for transport costs to visit the victim if they are overseas. Scammers will often build a relationship with their victims over time.

Signs your friend or family member may be involved in a romance scam:

- They may be very secretive about their relationship or provide excuses for why their online partner has not video called or met them in person. They might become hostile or angry and withdraw from conversation when you ask any questions about their partner.
- They may express very strong emotions and commitment to someone they have only just met.
- They have sent, or are planning to send, money to someone they have not met face-to-face. They may take out loans or withdraw from their pension to send money.

How users can stay safe from romance scams:

- Be suspicious of any requests for money from someone you have never met in person, particularly if you have only recently met online.
- Speak to your family or friends to get advice.
- Profile photos may not be genuine, do your research first. Performing [a reverse image search](#) on a search engine can find photos that have been taken from somewhere, or someone, else.

It is important that no matter how long you've been speaking to someone online and how much you think you trust them, if you have not met them in person, it's important that you do not:

- Send them any money.
- Allow them access to your bank account.
- Transfer money on their behalf.
- Take a loan out for them.
- Provide copies of your personal documents such as passports or driving licenses.
- Invest your own money on their behalf or on their advice.
- Purchase and send the codes on gift cards from Amazon or iTunes.
- Agree to receive and/or send parcels on their behalf (laptops, mobile phones etc.)

How to report it

If you think you have been a victim of a romance scam, do not feel ashamed or embarrassed - you are not alone. Contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or via actionfraud.police.uk.



Advice for Driving in Adverse Conditions.

In wet weather, stopping distances will be at least double those required for stopping on dry roads, this is because your tyres have less grip on the road.

In wet weather.

- You should keep well back from the vehicle in front. This will increase your ability to see and plan ahead.
- If the steering becomes unresponsive, it probably means that water is preventing the tyres from gripping the road. Ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually.
- The rain and spray from vehicles may make it difficult to see and be seen.
- Be aware of the dangers of spilt diesel that will make the surface very slippery.
- Take extra care around pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders.

When driving in icy or snowy weather

- Drive with care, even if the roads have been treated.
- Keep well back from the road user in front as stopping distances can be ten times greater than on dry roads.
- Take care when overtaking vehicles spreading salt or other de-icer, particularly if you are riding a motorcycle or cycle.
- Watch out for snowploughs which may throw out snow on either side. Do not overtake them unless the lane you intend to use has been cleared.
- Be prepared for the road conditions to change over relatively short distances.
- Listen to travel bulletins and take note of variable message signs that may provide information about weather, road and traffic conditions ahead.

Safer Internet Day 2024 | **Tuesday 6 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

#SaferInternetDay is on 6th February 2024. Want to know more about the day and how you can get involved? Why not check out the brand-new films and resources from @UK_SIC!

Iffracombe Police Enquiry Office is Re-opening.

Iffracombe PEO will be open from

Monday 5th February 2024 for 4 days a week,

Monday to Thursday 10am to 3pm

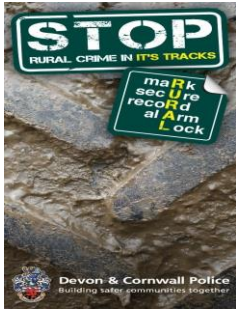
Police Enquiry Office at Barnstaple

Open - Monday to Friday 8am to 5.30pm

All Offices Closed Sunday & Bank Holiday's

Please note that when attending to ensure effort is made to arrive approximately 1 hour prior to closing time, to allow your enquiry to be dealt with.

www.devon-cornwall.police.uk



Help Stop Rural Crime

Rural properties and farms can be a target for thieves because they are isolated.

Expensive power tools, quad bikes, machinery, and diesel can be very attractive.

Here are some simple steps you can follow to prevent these crimes from happening:

- Lock doors and windows.
- Use an alarm system.
- Install CCTV.
- Use security lighting.
- Consider fitting tracking devices.
- Mark and register your tools and equipment.
- Secure vehicles and equipment.
- Don't leave keys in vehicle ignitions.
- Lock and hide fuel tanks.



Crimes are occurring in every area across North Devon, please be extra vigilant at this time check your property and report any suspicious activity you might come across.

Dial 999 When there is a crime happening, someone is in danger, a suspect for a serious crime is nearby, or there is a risk of serious damage to property.

Dial 101 or complete an online form, When you are reporting a crime not currently in progress, give information to the police about a crime in your area, or speak to the police about a general enquiry.

www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

We try to help whenever we can, but we're not always the best people to call in every situation

Abandoned cars and anti-social parking are dealt with by local councils	Unattended cars need to be reported to the DVLA	Lost or found dogs should be reported to the local dog warden	Noisy neighbours need to be reported to the council environmental health team
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Always check our website to make sure you contact the right people, first time: www.dc.police.uk/who-to-contact

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/contact> use this link to find out how long the waiting time is on **ringing 101** and see lots of other ways to report your concerns.

There are a number of different ways to get in touch with us

Every contact we receive about a policing issue is answered by a member of our team, whether it's through one of our online options or on the phone.

Contact details

Non Emergency
dc.police.uk
If a crime has already happened or to give information about the crime



WebChat
To get updates visit dc.police.uk and click on the WebChat widget

999 Emergency When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby or immediate action is required

Contact details for Deaf or hard of hearing / speech impaired

999 BSL (video relay for BSL users)	Text 999 (You must register for this service at www.emergencysms.org.uk)	18000 Minicom/textphone
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Non-Emergency Text 67101	SignLive SignLive (video relay for BSL users) for non-emergency	18001 101
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Ilfracombe Neighbourhood Team



Insp 11010
Richard Preston



Sgt 11013
Malcolm Kirk



PC 11707
Matt Reed



PC 15287
Paul Woodward



PCSO 30075
Ade Drury



PCSO 30549
Paul Grantham

ilfracombe@dc.police.uk
(not 24/7, Non-Emergency only)



Like us on our Facebook page **Ilfracombe Police** and get regular updates as it happens.

In an Emergency ring 999
For Non-Emergency Ring 101

Police Enquiry Office at –

Barnstaple Monday to Friday 8am to 5.30pm

From **Ilfracombe** Monday-Thursday 10am – 3pm

Tiverton Monday to Saturday 10am to 3pm

Exeter Monday – Saturday 8am-5.30pm

All Offices Closed Sunday & Bank Holiday's

Please note that when attending to ensure effort is made to arrive approximately 1 hour prior to closing time to allow your enquiry to be dealt with.

www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

Number of Crimes reported in January 2024

Ilfracombe

Violence less Serious 30
Burglary Residential 2
Fraud & Forgery 1
Theft (Shoplifting) 17
Theft (Other) 11
Drugs 4
Criminal Damage (Inc Arson) 7
Vehicle Crime (theft of & from) 1
Other Notifiable Crime 14

ActionFraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
0300 123 2040

Combe Martin

Violence More Serious 1
Violence less Serious 6
Other Notifiable Crime 1

CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime

Berrynarbor

None

East Down

None

Victim Care PCC

Tel 101 or go to the web
www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/victim-witnesses/ Victim but no crime report. Tel. 0300 303 0554