

## **Beware of Scams and Frauds**

Times like these bring out the best in people, and the worst in people. Already we are hearing of unscrupulous exploitation of the situation, including:

- Fraudulent emails containing hyperlinks or attachments, which people in a heightened state of worry are more likely than normal to click on.
- Advice circulating on social media that people self-isolating should physically mark their houses in some way if they need help, e.g. by displaying a sticker in their front window or tying a ribbon to their front door. This is effectively putting a target on the house for people up to no good.
- People offering goods that are in temporarily short supply (e.g toilet roll) or increased demand (e.g. face masks) for sale at knockdown prices, taking payment and then never delivering the goods.
- Fraudsters posing as volunteers and conning vulnerable (particularly elderly) people by taking their credit cards so that they could do their shopping for them, and then making additional unauthorised purchases.

The list above is a small sample of the depths some people will stoop to. It's a time for being extra-vigilant, pausing before clicking, and making sure that online and offline security measures are in place and up to date.

For further information see <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>.