

2nd July 2021

## SCAM CALLS FROM 'MATCHING' PHONE NUMBERS

Residents are warned to be vigilant of scam calls that appear to be coming from numbers similar to their own.

Commonly, the first seven digits (07nnnnn) match the individual's own number. The calls impersonate well-known government organisations, or law enforcement agencies, and will ask the recipient of the call to "press 1" in order to speak with an advisor, or police officer, about unpaid fines or police warrants.

There are reports of individuals receiving these types of calls, and messaging, via widely-used messaging apps, such as WhatsApp.



### Protecting yourself from phone scams:

#### Who is really calling?

Government and law enforcement agencies will not notify you about unpaid fines or outstanding police warrants by phone call or text. Do not respond to any calls or texts you receive about these.

#### Take Five

Always take a moment to stop and think before parting with money or your personal information, it could prevent you from falling victim to fraud. Remember, it's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

#### Report it

If you receive a suspicious text message, you can report it by forwarding the message to **7726** free of charge. Suspicious telephone/mobile calls can be reported to Action Fraud via their website: [police.uk/report-phishing](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk)



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on 101  
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and  
do **even more** Online at [essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)

