

Delivery scam targets innocent householders

Fraudsters who obtain addresses of innocent householders in order to have expensive computer equipment delivered which they can then collect is the latest scam to sweep across Surrey.

More than 25 victims have now come forward to report similar incidents, with the majority from West Surrey including Farnham, Haslemere, Camberley and Guildford. Households in Redhill and Staines have also been affected.

The scam works by the fraudsters obtaining names, dates of birth, addresses and telephone numbers of innocent householders and setting up Littlewoods accounts using these details. They then order expensive computer equipment, in most cases, iPads and laptops, which are sent to the addresses. They then telephone the householders, claiming to be from Littlewoods, to alert them that a parcel has been wrongly delivered to their address and re-arrange collection.

PC Andy Jenkins from West Surrey CID, who is investigating the scam, explained: "The suspects are using internet searches to find people with good credit histories whose details they can use to set up fake accounts. These people generally live in affluent areas and are generally retired, which means that some of them may be elderly and vulnerable, and less likely to keep an eye on their own credit history through an agency such as Experian or Equifax."

"In some cases, the fraudsters have attended to collect the parcels claiming that they work for Littlewoods. The suspects are described as male, black, in their 30s and wearing high visibility jackets. On other occasions, the householders have become suspicious and refused to rearrange collection and then rung the police, which is what I would recommend anyone else targeted in this way to do."

If you have fallen prey to a similar scam and have any information which could assist this investigation, particularly suspect descriptions and details of any suspicious-looking vehicles, please contact PC Jenkins immediately on 101, quoting crime reference number SH/12/1043. Alternatively, if you do not wish to leave your name, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

If you need to contact us in the meantime,
you can reach us on

Email: 9048@surrey.pnn.police.uk
Tel: 101