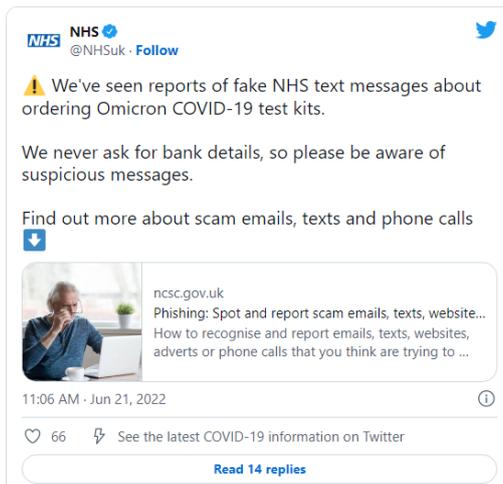


## MONTHLY FRAUD UPDATE – June 2022

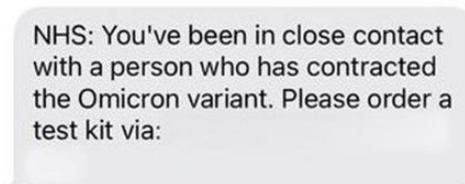
For the information of everyone to enable them to protect themselves, their families and the Council against the most current threats from fraud and cybercrime. Please feel free to distribute these messages to anyone you feel may benefit from them.

### NHS Covid test scams

The NHS have issued the following warning:



If you receive a text that looks like this:



If you click on the link provided, you will be taken to a site like this:



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Most people are no longer advised to test for Covid and, in this case, free tests are not available. However, some pharmacies and shops sell them. The NHS have confirmed that they will NEVER ask for bank details. This is a scam and, at best, you will lose your money.

**My advice remains the same: NEVER click on links in texts and only click on links in emails if you are absolutely certain that it is genuine. It is much safer to check directly with the business or department that the email claims to be from via telephone or the genuine website.**

### Other email scams

Essex Police are warning about scam renewal notices via email. These remind you that your subscription is about to expire or is set to renew. These emails contain a phone number or a link to a fake website designed to steal your personal and financial details.

They are also warning about similar messages saying someone's logged into your social media account using the same methods. What the scammers are looking for is a 'knee-jerk' reaction and that recipients will click on the link to find out what's it about and sort it quickly. Do not be fooled.

See my advice above. Go directly to the site in question (not via the link provided) or use the phone number on a bill or previous contact.

All these emails and texts are 'phishing'. Essex Police provide more details and advice [here](#).

If you are suspicious about an email, you should report it by forwarding the email to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

### Social media

The Metropolitan Police Service have published a short guide to staying safe on social media and the dangers of 'oversharing' [here](#). When you access the page there will be more short videos on this subject available as well.

### Crime prevention



Secure your house in the same way even if you're just popping to the shops. For more advice from Essex Police on protecting yourself, your property, and your belongings visit [here](#).

### Fraud advice and tips

Essex Police provide advice and information [here](#).

Kind regards

Shaun

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**REMEMBER, IF IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, THEN IT IS.**



'Tell2 over a brew' is a communication initiative that empowers you to discuss crime prevention messages with others in your life, who otherwise may never know. Start with 'tell2' and ask them to do the same. An unbroken chain of 26 tell2'ers would reach 67 million people. It starts with YOU!



'Take Five' is a national campaign to offer straight-forward, impartial advice that helps prevent email, phone-based and online fraud – particularly where criminals impersonate trusted organisations. Find out more at [www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk](http://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk).

**If you suspect someone is trying to defraud the Council call the Counter Fraud & Investigation Team on 01702 215254 or email us at [counterfraud@southend.gov.uk](mailto:counterfraud@southend.gov.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 [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.**