

4th June 2021

BE ONLINE SHOPPING SAVVY

IS THAT CAR *REALLY* FOR SALE?

In recent weeks, Essex Police has seen a increase in residents purchasing vehicles online and paying the full amount without ever having seen the car in person. When they arrive to collect the vehicle, it does not exist.



TOP TIPS

- **Always view and test drive the car before buying** - arrange to view in the daylight, preferably when it's dry. Make sure you're insured and test drive the car for about 15 minutes on different types of road.
- **Buy from an established firm or trusted seller** - you can look for a trade association sign or for sellers that have been inspected by an independent engineer or motoring organisation.
- **Use secure method of payment** - don't pay anything until you have seen the car. Once you are satisfied with what you are buying, use a secure method of payment such as a credit card to ensure you are protected if something goes wrong.

BOGUS BANK TRANSFERS

Essex Police have also received reports of residents selling electronic items online such as mobiles and laptops to suspects who attend the address and request to pay by bank transfer. They will pay on the doorstep claiming that it can take up to 2-3 hours for the payment to go through. The payment never arrives by which time the suspect has already left with the goods.

TOP TIPS

- **Arrange an instant payment** - consider using cash or using an instant payment service.
- **Wait for the payment to go through** - most transfers should be quite quick, don't let the item go without knowing you have received the payment.



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 or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online at essex.police.uk

