

## Parcel Thefts



The increase in online shopping at this time of year offers an opportunity for thieves to steal unattended parcels left outside homes. Consider the following to reduce the risk of doorstep theft:



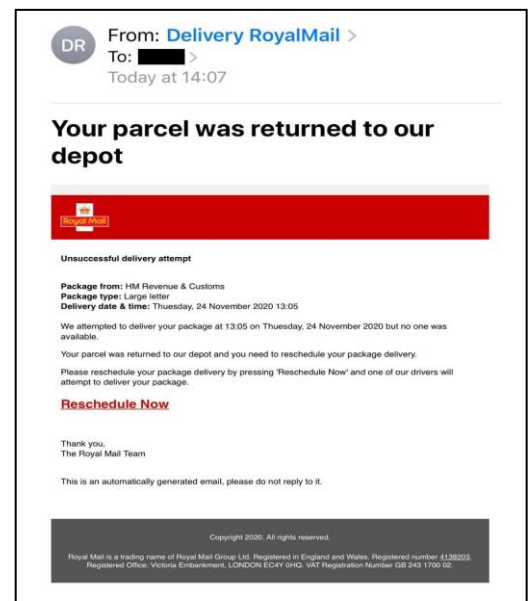
- Track your parcel to ensure someone is home for the delivery.
- Arrange for your parcel to be delivered to a trusted neighbour if you are going to be out.
- Use an offsite locker service for frequent or expensive items, these parcel boxes are normally in busy, safer places rather than secluded areas.
- Consider installing a video doorbell; this can be connected to your mobile so you are notified immediately of any delivery.

## Parcel Delivery Email & Text Scam

It's important to be wary of emails informing you of undelivered parcel attempts, especially a package that's supposedly from Royal Mail, with links contained allowing you to reschedule your package delivery.

Criminals are experts at creating spoof emails that use the official logo & branding of trusted organisations to trick you into taking urgent action by clicking on links without close inspection. Please also be aware of an increased risk of phone calls and texts claiming to be delivery companies.

Protect others from falling for this scam by forwarding scam emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and texts to 7726.



## Scamnesty 2020 – Scam Mail Amnesty



Throughout December 2020, the [Friends Against Scams](#) team are running a Scamnesty campaign aiming to encourage everyone to send in any unwanted scam and nuisance mail that they receive into the National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team completely free of charge.

In line with Government guidance, the team ask that you do not make a trip outside just to post the mail but please include it in any daily exercise, or simply wait until Government restrictions have been eased and then send them to the team then. Send mail (no need for a stamp) to: **NTSST, FREEPOST, MAIL MARSHALS**

## Festive Crime Prevention Advice



Stay safe this Christmas, whether you are out shopping, at home or enjoying your presents, remember these tips:



Securely lock all doors, windows and gates. Do not leave gifts and valuables on show in your home.



If it's a frosty morning and your car is icy don't give thieves an easy getaway, never leave your car unlocked, unattended or with the engine running.



If you are out shopping, look after your bags and don't leave presents on show in a parked vehicle.



Keep your handbag, purse or wallet safe. If you're carrying valuables in your Christmas shopping, try not to advertise them.



Be careful where you park your car when shopping, especially if returning to it in the dark. Choose a well-lit space as close to the exit as possible. Visit [parkmark.co.uk](https://www.parkmark.co.uk) for details of approved car parks.



Don't leave packaging for your Christmas presents outside or on show as this could advertise to burglars what is inside your home.



Register any new electronic devices, bikes or other valuables for free on [immobilise.com](https://www.immobilise.com)



If you are away from home over the holidays think about making your house look occupied, using timer switches to operate lamps as it gets dark and leaving a radio on. Consider asking a trusted neighbour or friend to keep an eye on your property, close and open curtains and remove any mail from the letterbox to a safe place in the house.

## Raising awareness of violence against shop workers

The [Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner](https://www.police.uk) is supporting a national campaign of [#KeepingChristmasKind](https://www.keepingchristmaskind.com). A film has been released to support the new campaign which includes the testimony of shop workers and their families who have described the abuse they have suffered during the pandemic.



According to retail trade union Usdaw, every minute of the working day during the pandemic somewhere across the country a shop worker was verbally abused, threatened with violence or physically attacked.

To watch the campaign film click here: [#KeepingChristmasKind – YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

## Hampshire & IOW Fire and Rescue Services: Safe & Well visits

[Safe and Well](#) is a person centered home fire safety visit based upon an individual's health needs, behavioral factors and home environment.

Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue Services are able to provide advice, support and guidance to individuals (including partner agencies responsible for providing care and support services), in the reduction and management of presenting fire risks.



### During a Safe and Well visit, officers will:

- Assess fire safety in every room in the property
- Identify and make occupants aware of the potential fire risks in their home
- Make sure occupants know what to do in order to reduce or prevent these risks
- Discuss a night-time routine that will help keep occupants safe at night
- Help put together a household escape plan
- Ensure occupants have working smoke alarms, install where necessary, and advise on maintenance and testing
- Issue fire retardant bedding, furniture throws and nightwear where needed
- Give basic advice on topics such as falls prevention and smoking

## Self-Assessment Tax Return Scams

Criminals are known to take advantage of the Self-Assessment deadline to panic customers into sharing personal or financial details.

If you receive an unexpected call, text or email claiming to be from HMRC then it could be a scam. Do not respond or click on any links.



Contact HMRC directly, using a number you have used before to check the communication is genuine.

For further Crime Prevention advice please visit [www.hampshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/)