



Welcome to this special edition **Scams Awareness Campaign newsletter**

We're supporting the Citizens Advice Scams Awareness Campaign, which runs from 12 to 25 October 2026

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Message from our Independent Chair

Welcome to this special edition newsletter for Scams Awareness Fortnight 2026. Scams and fraud are becoming increasingly sophisticated, and they can affect anyone.

Behind every scam is a real person who may experience financial loss and emotional harm. That is why raising awareness and supporting people to stay safe is so important.

During Scams Awareness fortnight, we are sharing practical advice, local resources and information about the excellent work taking place across Derbyshire to prevent scams and financial abuse. I encourage you to take a few moments to read this newsletter, share it with others and help spread the message that together we can make it harder for scammers and fraudsters to succeed.



Amanda Clarke, Independent Chair, Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Working together to tackle financial abuse



Our Financial Abuse Working Group brings together professionals from a range of organisations to help prevent, identify and respond to financial abuse

Meeting twice a year, and in virtual communication throughout the year, the group provides an opportunity for partners to share information, raise awareness of emerging issues, plan events and develop resources for both professionals and members of the public.

The group's work covers a wide range of financial abuse topics, including scams, fraud, cybercrime and abuse committed by family members or people in positions of trust. By sharing expertise and working collaboratively, members help to improve understanding of financial abuse and promote practical advice and support across Derbyshire.

The working group benefits from representation from a broad range of partner organisations, ensuring a coordinated and joined-up approach to protecting adults from financial harm.

Derbyshire's fraud-fighting newsletter - The Big Con



Derbyshire Constabulary's recently launched 'The Big Con' newsletter aims to raise awareness of the latest scams and provide practical advice on how to avoid becoming a victim.

The newsletter has been produced by the force's fraud team and brings together real examples of fraud and scam activity being seen across Derbyshire. Drawing on the experiences of officers working on the frontline, each article explains how a scam took place, the tactics used by offenders, and the steps people can take to protect themselves.

Fraudsters continually adapt their methods, often taking advantage of new technology and targeting individuals during moments of vulnerability. Resources such as 'The Big Con' can help residents, families and professionals recognise warning signs and take action before a scam succeeds.

Derbyshire Constabulary is working with partner organisations to make the newsletter widely available, both as a digital resource and through printed copies in community locations. The aim is to ensure that as many people as possible have access to up-to-date fraud prevention information.

If you have any feedback, or stories you'd like to be included in future editions please email TheBigCon@derbyshire.police.uk

As always, remember the key message: Stop! Think Fraud. Taking a moment to pause and question an unexpected request, message or phone call can be one of the most effective ways to prevent fraud.

[Read Derbyshire Constabulary's fraud newsletter – The Big Con](#)

Rogue builder jailed



Rogue builder, Sean Patrick Gartland, who left victims across Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire more than £136,000 in total out of pocket has been jailed for 32 months after admitting 3 offences relating to fraud.

Gartland was sentenced at Derby Crown Court on 27 August 2026 after admitting at an earlier hearing in July 2026 to two counts of fraudulent trading and one of carrying on a business for fraudulent purposes.

Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety Councillor Dan Price said:

"Protecting residents from rogue traders is one of our top priorities and we welcome the sentence handed down to Gartland by the court. We hope it sends out a strong and clear message to others that this type of offending will not be tolerated.

"Our trading standards officers have worked tirelessly to bring Gartland to justice for his crimes that have left his victims thousands of pounds out-of-pocket, caused huge emotional distress and in some cases left them living in unsafe homes."

The successful case was brought against the builder by Derbyshire County Council's Trading Standards team, who started investigations in January 2022 following complaints from customers. [Read the full article.](#)

The Trading Standards team encourages people to the [Trusted Trader scheme](#) when looking for reliable and honest tradespeople.

Residents should report suspected rogue traders to the [Citizens Advice consumer service](#) helpline , telephone: [0808 223 1133](#).

Report Fraud is the place to tell the police about cyber crime and fraud



Report Fraud is the place to tell the police about cyber crime and fraud. Using the service you can make a [report online](#) or by phone on 0300 123 2040.

They also provide the Report Fraud Victim Service which offers dedicated, and specialist help to victims of cyber crime and fraud.

The service is run by the City of London Police. Their Report Fraud Analysis Services team are responsible for the assessment of reports made and to ensure that your fraud reports reach the right place.

The City of London Police is the national policing lead for economic crime and works in partnership with policing and other law enforcement agencies.

[Report your cyber crime and fraud](#)

Courier fraud



Courier fraud happens when criminals contact you by phone and convince you to hand over money or your debit/credit card under false pretences.

You might receive a call from someone claiming to be a police officer or from your bank. They may know basic details about you, such as your name and address, to gain your trust.

Once they have your trust, the criminals might claim:

1. There's been a fraudulent payment on your card, or it needs replacing due to expiration.
2. An investigation requires you to withdraw money and hand it over to a courier or police officer, promising it will be returned later.
3. You need to buy expensive items to hand over to a courier for inspection.
4. Money has been taken from your account by corrupt bank staff, and you need to withdraw funds for evidence.
5. A business like a jeweller or currency exchange is operating fraudulently, and you're needed to help gather evidence.

A key feature of this threat is the disproportionate targeting of older people, particularly those aged 70 and above. This group makes up majority of victims, with those aged between 76 and 96 alone accounting for around 62 per cent of all reports.

Fraudsters often deliberately focus on older victims, exploiting trust in institutions such as the police and banks, as well as using pressure tactics, fear and urgency to manipulate them into complying with instructions.

Think you'd spot courier fraud? Learn how these scams work, the warning signs to watch for, and how to protect yourself and those around you in this [Report Fraud courier fraud article](#).

[Report your fraud and cyber crime](#)

Romance fraud



lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship.

Criminals lie to gain your trust and build a relationship with you. They make everything about the romance feel normal but their aim is to get money or personal information.

Romance fraudsters are experts at manipulating their victims. They will usually:

- Create a story that sounds believable and start the relationship in a normal way gain your trust over time
- Invent a problem or situation where you may feel like you want to send money or gifts to help them
- Isolate you from friends or family

Could you spot the signs of romance fraud before it's too late?

These scams can be highly convincing and can affect anyone. Visit the [Derbyshire Police romance fraud webpage](#) to learn how fraudsters operate, the warning signs to look out for, and the simple steps you can take to protect yourself and those around you. You'll also find real-life victim stories, crime prevention videos, practical advice, and information about where to get help and support if you or someone you know has been affected.

Cyber security advice for you and your family



Protect yourself with trusted cyber security guidance from the [National Cyber Security Centre \(NCSC\)](#). Learn how to secure your devices, safeguard personal data, and stay secure online.

Don't become another statistic – take action to secure your online accounts; from banking and shopping, to email and social media. It's more important than ever to make your cyber security a priority.

The East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU) has produced a fully signed British Sign Language video called [What is Cybercrime?](#) to help warn the deaf community about cyber security, fraud and scams that could affect them.

Predatory marriage



A predatory marriage typically involves targeting a vulnerable or incapacitated person (often an older adult with dementia) to exploit them financially or inherit their estate.

A predatory marriage can be emotionally and financially damaging to both the victim and their family.

Many people do not know that a marriage revokes a Will, which can lead to emotional pain and financial loss for so many families. Just knowing about it might mean a family can act before it is too late.

A campaign known as [Predatory Marriage UK](#) was started following a case involving an elderly lady, Joan Blass. The campaign is seeking to change the laws and procedures around marriage to better safeguard vulnerable individuals like Joan.

A predatory marriage is not the same as a forced marriage. Even though they overlap, they have distinct differences in motivation legal status, and typical victims. Forced marriage is illegal in the UK. It is a form of domestic abuse and serious abuse of human rights.

Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board has developed local resources to support practitioners to understand the possible signs of predatory marriage - a [Predatory marriage leaflet](#) and [Predatory marriage 7-minute briefing](#).

Reporting a safeguarding concern

A leaflet from the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board. The top half features a black and white photograph of an elderly woman looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The bottom half has a dark purple background with white and pink text. The title 'There is NO Excuse for Abuse' is in large white letters. Below it, there are three paragraphs of text in white, followed by the board's name and website in pink.

 Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board

There is NO Excuse for Abuse

If you or someone you know in Derbyshire is being abused or neglected please tell someone

In an emergency, contact the police, tel: **999** or if you are deaf/hard of hearing use emergency SMS by texting **999** from your phone, or use the NGT Relay Assistant by dialling **18000** from the app or textphone

If the person is not in any danger now but there has been a crime, contact the police, tel: **101**

If you're worried about yourself or someone else being abused or neglected, please contact Call Derbyshire, tel: **01629 533190**

Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board
www.derbyshiresab.org.uk

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There are eight '**There is NO Excuse for Abuse**' posters. They are available to download from the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board website, www.derbyshiresab.org.uk



For queries or comments please contact:

Natalie Gee (DSAB Board Manager) at DerbyshireSAB@derbyshire.gov.uk



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