

## **Scammers raise their game during Coronavirus lockdown, say Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire**

Disappointingly, during a time when most of us are feeling vulnerable, scammers are looking for every opportunity to take advantage.

Action Fraud has already reported over £5.3 million pounds lost to scammers during lockdown. And this is only the tip of the iceberg....

We are worried about our health and know that face masks, sanitizer and home testing kits are all available to help protect coronavirus spreading. Scammers are offering these things at high prices but may not provide them at all once we have paid.

We are worried about having food and being able to shop if we are isolating or shielding. Scammers are offering to shop for us – at a price. Not an act of kindness but a fraud against our purse.

We are worried about money while businesses are shut and jobs uncertain. Scammers are pretending to be DWP and asking for our personal details and bank information.

Scammers seize every opportunity. We can and should be doing something about it.

Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire is promoting Coronavirus Scams Awareness Fortnight between 15 and 28 June. Visit the website Research and Campaigns page ([www.citizensadvicesouthlincs.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicesouthlincs.org.uk)) and social media for regular updates.

Our message is that we can all help in the fight against scammers. We can take action by being aware of the scams that are out there. We can find out how to help prevent scams happening to us. We can know how to report scams. And we can all help each other by passing on information about scams to friends, family and colleagues.

**Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire is currently working on telephone, webchat and email. Clients are asked to use Adviceline on 03444 111444 or the Migrant Worker Helpline on 03448 476128. Alternatively use Webchat and Email via [www.citizensadvicesouthlincs.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicesouthlincs.org.uk)**