Warning about impersonation fraud from West Yorkshire Police

Surge in Fraudulent Calls from Impersonators Claiming to Be Police or Banks

The Yorkshire and Humber Regional Economic Crime Unit is urging the public to remain vigilant following a recent surge in fraudulent phone calls targeting residents in the West Yorkshire area, including those living in and around Leeds.

Over the past few days, a growing number of reports have been received from individuals who were contacted by fraudsters posing as Police Officers or representatives from their Bank. These criminals are using sophisticated tactics to gain trust and manipulate victims into revealing sensitive financial information or withdrawing funds.

Scammers typically initiate contact through an unexpected phone call, claiming to be from your bank or the Police. They may assert:
• A fraudulent transaction has occurred on your account.
• Your bank card is compromised and needs replacing.
• You must assist in a covert investigation by withdrawing cash or purchasing high-value items.

The YHROCU Fraud Protect team would like to remind the public of the following important facts:
The Police or your bank will NEVER:
o Ask for your PIN number or passwords.
o Request that you send your card via courier.
o Instruct you to withdraw or transfer money for an investigation.

Protect Yourself:
• Never share personal information: Even if the caller seems genuine.
• Verify unexpected requests: Hang up and call the organisation back using a verified number (e.g. from your bank statement or official website).
• Be sceptical of urgency: Scammers often create pressure to make you act quickly. Take your time to assess the situation.

Support Your Loved Ones:
Please share this information with parents, grandparents, neighbours, and anyone who may be more vulnerable to these types of scams. A quick conversation could prevent someone you care about from becoming a victim.

People in the UK lost £1.2bn to fraud in 2022, the equivalent of £2,300 every minute, according to bank industry group UK Finance. It said around three million scams took place, with frauds involving payment cards being the most common.

Fraud is when trickery is used to gain a dishonest advantage, which is often financial, over another person. Cybercrime is any criminal act dealing with computers and networks.

To report an incident of cybercrime or fraud and for further information visit the Action Fraud website at www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Children’s tennis coaching – court reserved on Thursdays 3:15pm-4:30pm from 11th September 2025

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Harewood Parish Council is hosting the Harewood Children’s
Tennis Coaching sessions run by Shadwell Tennis Club on Thursday afternoons from
3.15pm to 4:30pm, commencing Thursday 11 September until further notice. Please note
that the court will not be available for public use during the children’s sessions.

National Emergency Alert Test

The National Emergency Alert test will be happening later this month. The UK government is testing the system on **Sunday 7 September 2025 at 3pm.** Your mobile phone or tablet will vibrate and make a loud siren-like sound, even if it’s set on silent. The alert message will confirm this is a test and that you do not need to take any further action

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July 2025 Neighbourhood Watch

Newsletter

Advice for the summer period on keeping safe your home and community. To read the newsletter follow the link below.

Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter July 2025

IRONMAN LEEDS – Major Road Closures on Sunday July 27th 2025

The IRONMAN LEEDS triathlon will be held in north Leeds on Sunday 27th July. Major disruption to traffic is expected. **DETAILS HERE.**

This is a major public participation event comprising swimming (Roundhay Park Lake) , running and a 112 mile cycle course comprising 3 circuits of a route in North Leeds. This will involve closures of some major roads for many hours of the day and restricted access to some parts Harewood Parish. **Significantly, closures will be in place on the A61 in both directions between Harewood and Alwoodley Gates, and also westbound on the A659 at Arthington.** Other closures will affect traffic attempting to reach or leave Wyke, Weardley, Bardsey, Scarcroft and Shadwell.

Full details of the event together with maps of the roads affected can be found on The IronMan Leeds UK web site.

Many residents and businesses in the affected areas have expressed concern to Leeds Council concerning the inconvenience and disruption but the event is going ahead. Also relevant is the fact that The Leeds Championship Dog Show is being held at Harewood House the same weekend. Northbound visitors from Leeds will be unable to use the A61 between 7am and 5:30 pm on Sunday 27th July.

Residents living in Harewood, Wike, and Wigton are strongly advised to consult the IronMan web site and plan to avoid the likely congestion periods.

Harewood Parish Council was not consulted by either the organisers or Leeds City Council before the event was planned.

Avoid being scammed by false QR codes – West Yorkshire Community Alert

New quishing alert: £3.5 million lost last year to fraudulent QR codes

Action Fraud is urging people to look out for rogue QR codes, after 784 reports of ‘quishing’ were made to Action Fraud between April 2024 and April 2025, with almost £3.5 million lost.

A new alert has been issued by Action Fraud, warning about quishing, a form of phishing where a fraudulent QR code is scanned, designed to steal personal and financial information. The warning encourages people to stay vigilant and double check QR codes to see if they are malicious, or have been tampered with, before scanning them online or in public spaces.

Claire Webb, Acting Director of Action Fraud, said:

“QR codes are becoming increasingly common in everyday life, whether it’s scanning one to pay for parking, or receiving an email asking to verify an online account. However, reporting shows cyber criminals are increasingly using quishing as a way to trick the public out of their personal and financial information.

“We’re urging people to stop and check before scanning QR codes, to avoid becoming a victim of quishing. Look out for QR codes that may have been tampered with in open spaces, or emails and texts that might include rogue codes. If you’re in doubt, contact the organisation directly. You can follow our advice on quishing, on our website at www.actionfraud.police.uk to help protect yourself.”

Action Fraud can reveal that quishing happens most frequently in car parks, with criminals using stickers to tamper with QR codes on parking machines. Quishing also occurred on online shopping platforms, where sellers received a QR code via email to either verify accounts or to receive payment for sold items.

Reports also showed phishing attacks were taking place impersonating HMRC, or other UK government schemes, targeting people with QR codes designed to steal personal and financial details.

What can you do avoid being a victim of quishing?

QR codes used in pubs or restaurants are usually safe to scan.

Scanning QR codes in open spaces (like stations and car parks) might pose a greater risk. Check for signs that codes may have been tampered with (usually by a sticker placed over the legitimate QR code). If in doubt, do not scan them: use a search engine to find the official website or app for the organisation you need to make a payment to.

If you receive an email with a QR code in it, and you’re asked to scan it, you should be cautious due to an increase in these types of ‘quishing’ attacks.

Finally, we recommend that you use the QR-scanner that comes with your phone, rather than using an app downloaded from an app store.

If you receive a suspicious email, report it by forwarding it to phishing@report.gov.uk

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk

If you’ve been a victim of fraud, report it at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, contact Police Scotland on 101.

25th July 2025 Summer Jive in Harewood- A fun event to help

keep you fit and healthy

Summer Jive is a great way to dance or learn to dance.

For details of this taster session to show you the fun way to enjoy and keep fit, follow the link below.

Summer Jive in Harewood Friday 25th July 2025

Harewood Parish Council Annual Report 2025

Dr Kate Hill, Chair of Harewood Parish Council, is pleased to share the Annual Report she presented at the recent Annual Parish Meeting. Click on the link below to read the report.

Chair's Annual Report 2025

Parish Council Annual Accounts 2024 – 2025

The Annual Accounts for 2024 – 2025 of Harewood Parish Council are now published. They are available using the following link.

Harewood Parish Council Annual Accounts 2024 – 2025

New support for victims of road crashes in West Yorkshire

More support services are being offered to victims of serious road crashes with the creation of a new role.

West Yorkshire now has an Independent Road Victim Advocate (IRVA).

The new position will offer face-to-face help following referrals from Police Family Liaison Officers (FLOs), who have first contact with road victims.

It means families of people killed or seriously injured on the county's roads, as well as people who have been seriously injured themselves will be able to access:

• Emotional support.

• Practical support.

• Help understanding procedures, such as criminal prosecutions or court cases.

• Support seeking and using lawyers.

• Family support, for example with children or the elderly.

• Injury rehabilitation.

Jan Vekaria, from Shipley, received support after losing her husband, Parv, in a car crash caused by a dangerous driver on the wrong side of the road.

Jan said: "It made a massive difference, I couldn't have got through this without Brake.

"I remember the first few visits and I probably just cried a lot. I just needed someone there who understood and was really sympathetic.

"My support worker was so good at helping me by explaining what was going to happen. She helped me so much and I've been able to continue to speak to her."

Road victims face many complex practical procedures after a crash, in addition to ongoing trauma from the incident itself.

Victims may have to identify a loved one's body, attend a criminal or inquest hearing, get a loved one's property and clothing returned, understand how a collision happened, and provide a Victim Impact Statement in court.

The new position is managed by the road safety charity Brake and has been funded by the West Yorkshire Vision Zero Partnership.

Alison Lowe, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and Chair of the West Yorkshire Vision Zero Board, said: "I know first-hand what it's like to lose a loved one in these circumstances.

"The pain and devastation is immeasurable and we must do all we can to support people affected by these tragedies.

"I am pleased we have been able to secure the new role which will make a real difference in our communities as we work together to reduce road death and serious injuries to zero."

Ross Moorlock, CEO at Brake, the road safety charity, said: "We are so grateful to Jan for sharing her experience and helping people understand how the support she received from Brake has helped her.

"We know that the right support at the right time can change the course of someone's life. For Jan, being able to access specialist, trauma-informed support delivered by Brake has made such a difference. We know that there are many other families out there who need our help after a road death or serious injury, and we are here to support them in their darkest and most difficult times.

"We are proud to be partnering with the West Yorkshire Vision Zero team and we look forward to working with the team to support families in need. Their support for the plight of road victims is very evident and we are thankful that they have chosen Brake to provide support for families in West Yorkshire, through a local caseworker."

To find out more about the support options available, visit https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/vz-useful-links.