

The latest news from Warwickshire Business Watch!

Warwickshire Business Watch has been created in partnership between the Warwickshire County Council Community Safety Team, Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Warwickshire Police. Its main aim is to provide information and advice to businesses, helping them to protect themselves from becoming victims of crime.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Business Watch team are following Government directives and adopting the 'stay at home' rule. Our offices have been closed and staff are working remotely. The team is operating as normally and will continue to provide as much support as possible during this period, despite the challenging circumstances that the current situation places us all in.

Warwickshire Business Watch continues to support businesses with news and guidance on latest crime trends and protection advice available during the Coronavirus outbreak. We work with partners to collate and provide key information to Warwickshire businesses. We are acting as point of contact for sharing best practice and navigating through public sector business crime support available. More information can be found on www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk.

Sign up to the Warwickshire Business Watch Alert System and get weekly updates on incidents in your area alongside other important information on how to keep your business safe. Business Watch is here to help businesses guard against the threat, committed to identifying gaps and tackling this problem through partnership working. Here in Warwickshire we promote partnership working and encourage a two-way communicating system. If you have any query or concern get in touch with your local Business Crime Advisor. Details are available at www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk/contact.

For all the latest Safe in Warwickshire news please visit www.safeinwarwickshire.com.



Find Us Online

Visit the Warwickshire Business Watch website on www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter [@WarksBusiness](https://twitter.com/WarksBusiness)

Contact us via communitysafety@warwickshire.gov.uk

Security Advice for Closed Businesses

Warwickshire Police, Warwickshire County Council and local councils are working with local businesses to provide advice whilst they are currently closed, to ensure no cash or valuables are left on site. Many of these have already implemented our suggested security measures. Make sure you do not leave any valuables inside or outside your business during the lockdown period.

To support businesses manage their security during the coronavirus pandemic, Secured by Design, the Police Digital Security Centre and the National Counter Terrorism Security Office have put together a leaflet containing the Top 10 Security Tips for Closed Business Premises, the Top 10 Cyber Security Tips for Working at Home and the latest Counter Terrorism advice. The information is aimed at businesses who have either been instructed by the government to close in line with the Covid-19 guidance or have chosen to close, and provides advice and guidance to assist them review both their physical and cyber security to reduce the chances of falling victim to criminals. Full content available at www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk/security-advice-for-closed-businesses.

COVID-19 'Smishing' and 'SMS Spoofing' Scams

Warwickshire Trading Standards is warning residents and businesses to beware of COVID-19 'smishing' and 'SMS spoofing' scams. 'Smishing' is where a fraudster will send out a bogus text message purporting to be from a genuine organisation or business. 'SMS Spoofing' also involves the sending of fake text messages using specialist software. However, in this case the messages appear in the chain of texts, next to genuine messages the mobile phone user has already received, making them harder to spot and appear more plausible. 'Smishing' and 'SMS spoofing' text messages may also be followed up by phone calls from the fraudsters!

Full article can be found at www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk/threat-alert-beware-covid-19-smishing-and-sms-spoofing-scams-warn-warwickshire-trading-standards.

COVID-19 National and Local Guidance for Supermarkets and other Food Retailers

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of coronavirus, the government has given clear guidance on self-isolation, staying at home and social distancing. Food shopping has been highlighted as one of few activities essential to continue. To ensure our population can stay safe when out shopping, please follow the guidance to prevent the spread of coronavirus at www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk/covid-19-national-and-local-guidance-for-supermarkets-and-other-food-retailers.



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Investors Warned of Bogus Investment Opportunities During COVID-19

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 many investors large and small have seen a fall in the value of their investments caused by a hugely volatile stock market. Fraudsters are seeking to take advantage of this situation by cold calling or emailing consumers offering people the opportunity to invest in schemes or products that appear to offer high returns in a difficult financial climate, sometimes by claiming that the investments are 'healthcare' related. In reality, fraudsters offer 'too good to be true' investments that are either worthless or don't even exist. More advice available at

www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk/threat-alert-investors-warned-of-bogus-investment-opportunities-during-covid-19.

Fake COVID-19 Appeals and Urge Safe Giving

Many charities are coming together to support people affected by COVID-19. Unfortunately, fraudsters are taking advantage of the pandemic by creating fake fundraising platforms and bogus crowdfunding, falsely claiming that donations will support research into a vaccine or help people who are ill or self-isolating. Find out relevant advice at www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk/threat-alert-trading-standards-warn-of-fake-covid-19-appeals-and-urge-safe-giving.

Warwickshire Modern Slavery Business Pledge

Tackling Modern Slavery is a key priority for the Police and Crime Commissioner as well as partner agencies. Part of the work is encouraging businesses to sign the Modern Slavery Business Pledge. This allows businesses to commit to tackling Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in all forms, including in supply chains.

Section 54 of the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires commercial organisations that operate in the UK and have an annual turnover above £36m to produce a statement setting out the steps they are taking to address and prevent the risk of modern slavery in their operations and supply chains; it is also known as the Transparency in Supply Chains clause (TISC).

The Pledge is a free and voluntary initiative that businesses can sign up for. It consists of a short statement declaring the community's recognition that modern slavery is a business issue, and their commitment to step up and address it. It allows businesses with the turnover below the threshold and their supply chain to voluntarily develop a Section 54 statement to declare what are they doing to prevent Modern Slavery from occurring in their businesses and supply chains. More information and support in relation to Modern Slavery and the Business Community are available at

www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk/modern-slavery.



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