

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Council:

Forth and Endrick, Balforn Community Council

Reporting Period:

March 2024 – Compiled by PC Matt McCammon

Ward Plan Priorities

Fraud

Enquires are ongoing into fraudulent activity whereby, a business has sent out an invoice to a client for payment along with account details to pay the money into. When the client received the email the bank account details have been changed to another back account. fortunately, the client discovered this before transferring any money.

Incident of Note

Balforn 10k. Police were assigned to attend the race and pleased to report that it was a successful event and all persons in attendance were in good spirits.

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Where to Report Scams

Scams

In Scotland, report all scams to **Advice Direct Scotland** by calling **0808 164 6000** (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) or online at www.consumeradvice.scot

Fraud

If you have been the victim of fraud, report it to **Police Scotland** on **101** or **999** in an emergency.

Suspicious Emails

You can forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and send links from websites which you think are trying to scam the public to the **National Cyber Security Centre's** scam website reporting service at www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-this-website/report-scam-website

Suspicious Text Messages

If you receive a suspicious text message you can forward it to **7726**. The free-of-charge '7726' service enables your provider to investigate and take action if malicious content is found.

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Keeping secure online

So much of our daily routine is now online. There's banking, shopping and social networking. Criminals are also going online to exploit people.

Police Scotland has a programme to help deliver Safer Virtual Communities. The education of online safety is part of our commitment to work with partners.

We also work with local policing divisions to protect members of the public online.

We raise awareness of online crimes and give advice on how to keep important information secure. We also help reduce the risk of people becoming victims.

To help keep yourself safe, here are a few golden rules to follow.

- Use a strong password or passphrase
- Your password should be at least 12 characters long
- The password should contain a mixture of letters, numbers and symbols
- Never give personal or sensitive details out online or over email
- Make sure all devices have the latest anti-virus software and a firewall installed
- Keep software and apps regularly updated
- Only download from legal, trusted websites
- Only open emails and attachments from known and trusted sources
- Check the address starts with 'https://' whenever you're asked to enter sensitive information online
- Avoid using public Wi-Fi hotspots that are not secure.
- Don't use if they ask you for personal information to access public Wi-Fi
- Regularly back up your data
- Control your social media accounts
- Regularly check your privacy settings and how your data is being used and shared
- Be cautious of internet chats and online dating - there's no guarantee you're speaking to who you think
- Be extremely cautious if you're asked for money.

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[Visit Cyber Aware](#) for step-by-step instructions on keeping your devices up to date. This includes security updates and online security advice.

Remember: If it's illegal offline it is illegal online.

This includes posting anything that promotes crime, violence or drug misuse.

This includes threats made against you or forcing you to pay money. It also includes being forced to do something to prevent images or information being posted or shared.

This activity is often linked to footage taken using webcams, known as sextortion.

The following links on this page will provide up to date and relevant information.

They give advice around being safe online. It will also help you spot when things aren't right

Should you wish further advice then contact Police Scotland by dialling 101.

How can I keep my child safe online?

[CEOP](#) gives information on how to keep your child safe online. They let you know who can help. They also let you know where you can report inappropriate, illegal or indecent images involving children.

What if I find illegal images on the web?

Find out how to report illegal website images and content on the [IWF website](#).

Where can I get more information about keeping safe online?

For more information about how to use the internet safely visit Cyber Scotland.

It's an online resource for individuals and organisations (public, private, and third sectors). There's information and support about different cyber security and resilience issues.

[The Scottish Business Resilience Centre](#) 'one stop shop' for business security and advice

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[Cyber Aware](#)'s aim is to make good cyber security habits second nature for individuals and small businesses

[respectme](#) is Scotland's anti-bullying service

[Choices for Life](#) for young people aged 11-18yrs

[The Scottish Business Resilience Centre](#) 'one stop shop' for business security and advice

[Childnet International](#) making the internet a safe place for children.

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) promote the safe use of technology for young people.

[Internet Matters](#) a not-for-profit organisation that helps keep children safe in the digital world

[No More Ransom](#) with the goal to help victims of ransomware get their data back without having to pay

Keeping people safe in the digital world

[Keeping People Safe in the Digital World](#) is Police Scotland's cyber strategy.

It makes sure our people have the right skills. It also makes sure we have the support to meet the demands of a future focused police service. The aims are:

- Making sure that Police Scotland is able to respond to different threats
- Working to prevent cybercrime by developing a public health approach and working with partners
- Making Scotland a hard place for cyber criminals to work. We have increased our visibility in the physical and virtual world
- Ensuring that we protect those at most risk of harm.

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Community Engagement and Reassurance

It is important to you to have community officers who you know, who are accessible and who address local problems.

PC Matt McCammon is the Ward Officer for the Forth and Endrick area. He is based at Balfron Police Office and can be contacted at the office, on 101, or at ForthEndrickCPT@scotland.police.uk. It is recommended that this email address is used by the local community for email contact however this should not be used to report crimes.

Please remember that we regularly publish useful information and updates on social media, including appeals for information, updates about road closures and crime prevention advice. Our Facebook and Twitter pages can be found at;

www.facebook.com/forthvalleypolicedivision

www.facebook.com/policescotland

www.twitter.com/stirlingpol

www.twitter.com/policescotland