

## **Fraud advice alert from Police Scotland (received Feb 2021)**

Unfortunately local residents, (Stewarty and Wigtownshire) have been victims of fraud and have lost substantial amounts of money. The most recent scams involve a man contacting the victims by phone and pretending to be from the victims bank. They then proceed to obtain personal information from the victims in relation to their affairs as well as banking and card details. The criminals prey on peoples fears and trust. In one instance they have even convinced the victim to post a financial item. These criminals are very convincing.

*No-one should ever contact you out of the blue to ask for their full PIN or full password, or ever make them feel pressured into moving money to another account. If it doesn't make sense contact your bank yourself using a trusted method.*

From the Take 5 Campaign

"Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment.

*Stop:* Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information.

*Challenge:* Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

*Protect:* Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam.

*My money, My info, I don't think so!"*

More information can be found at <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk> or from your own banks web site or leaflets.