

# TS Alert Message from Kent Trading Standards

## Sent By (include Name, Address and Contact Details)

Trading Standards, Advice and Education, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8XU  
Telephone 01233 652385  
www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/kent

## Message

Incident Date

November 2009

Area

Ashford, Kent

Target

Kent businesses

Description of People/Vehicles Involved

None – potential business scam based in the United Arab Emirates.

Description of Incident

A Kent business was approached by email by a person claiming to be acting as agent for a client, to purchase some expensive catering food equipment. The agent asked for a quote for some specific items, and on agreement asked for bank details into which to pay the money. The agent subsequently contacted the Kent firm saying they had paid the money, but had overpaid in error by over £90,000, and asked for this to be refunded to the client. On checking their bank records, the Kent firm identified that no money had been received from the "client", and that the overpayment claim appeared to be a scam to obtain money by deception. Kent Police are aware of the incident.

What action should be taken (please indicate whether or not a response is requested and include clear contact details where appropriate)

Businesses should ensure that any approach for business by email, especially from abroad, is dealt with carefully and in particular that payment issues are checked before action is taken to refund anyone. If you have been approached in this manner, you should report it to Kent Police, and to Kent Trading Standards on 01233 898825.

Expiry Date

31 December 2009

This message is valid for \_\_\_\_\_ days following transmission or expires on 31 December 2009

*The normal period for validity of messages will be seven days*

## Distribution

Messages are not confidential and can be used for public distribution

Signed

Caroline Elliott

Date

26/11/09