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POLICE SCOTLAND SAFETY MESSAGE

Police Scotland is asking people to be alert to an ongoing scam targeting Chinese students.

Students may be initially contacted by a scammer posing as a Chinese customs official / or staff from their phone provider claiming a parcel addressed to them has been stopped in China. The contents of the parcel are illegal, and the Chinese police are now involved. A scammer posing as a Chinese police officer will then demand money from the student.

Alternatively, a student may be phoned directly by scammers posing as Chinese police officers, accusing them of serious criminal offences such as money laundering and then demand money.

The scammers will claim they are demanding money to check it is legal / to prevent the students' deportation / to pay a fine / to pay for bail.

This scam has happened in Edinburgh, with some students having to end their studies and return to China. Very large sums of money have been lost by individual students.

We are urging Chinese students to be vigilant, and to come forward if they've been targeted, regardless of whether they've lost money, or not.

Our advice is to never provide personal or financial information in response to unsolicited phone calls, emails or text messages. Only transfer money if you have independently verified it is for a genuine purpose, and you trust the person or organisation.

If you are concerned regards a phone call / email or text you have received speak to a friend / family / University security team / Police Scotland.

We are treating this matter with the utmost seriousness and would urge anyone with any information which could assist our enquiries to contact Police Scotland via 101 or email the Contact Us form – www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us

A range of useful crime prevention advice is available on our website at www.scotland.police.co.uk

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