09/10/18 7164 CN201-CS226 Phone scam involving bogus police officer

Police are asking people to be alert and appealing for information after three pensioners were conned into giving away their bank cards.

The three incidents all happened between 9pm on Friday 14 September and 1am on Saturday 15 September. In each case the victim was contacted by a man claiming to be a PC from a Bristol police station. In two cases the man claimed that the victim's bank account had been compromised and asked them to hand in their bank cards. In the third he said a recent withdrawal included counterfeit cash which had to be given up as well as bank cards. The victims were all persuaded to leave their cards in envelopes outside their homes. These envelopes were all collected within about 15 minutes of being left.

An 84-year-old man in Clifton lost his bank card, but thankfully refused to give his PIN and no money was taken. A woman aged 80 who lives in Keynsham handed over cash and her bank cards. There were several unsuccessful attempts to use her card. In Stapleton, an 84-year-old woman gave up her cards and has cash withdrawn from her account. In each case officers have carried out house-to-house enquiries in the neighbourhood. The victims' home security has also been reviewed.

Sergeant Ashley Jones, of the Senior Citizen Liaison Team said: "Neither the police nor your bank will ever ask you to disclose your PIN. If you're a victim of fraud we would ask you to cancel your cards, not to hand them to us. Please don't discuss your finances with anyone who calls you out of the blue, even if they say they're a police officer or from your bank. Genuine callers will be happy to make an appointment for you to visit them. If you know someone who may be vulnerable to this type of fraud, I'd urge you to talk to them about it."

There's lots of information about fraudsters and scams at http://www.actionfraud.police.uk. If you think you have been defrauded you can report it by calling 0300 123 2050 or online via https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud If you have any information which could help the police investigation, please get in touch through http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact, or by calling 101, quoting reference 5218206928.