



CORONA VIRUS SCAM ALERT

WEST YORKSHIRE TRADING STANDARDS NEWSLETTER

West Yorkshire Trading Standards monthly update on COVID-19 related scams.

PayPal Scam that is targeting Facebook Accounts.




Action Fraud reports that fraudsters are hacking accounts and purporting to be friends or family on the social media site, stating that they have sold a camera on eBay but that they are unable to process the payment. The request is that the message recipient receives the funds into their own Pay Pal account, then they forward it onto an account controlled by the fraudster. If the victim agrees the payment is transferred into their Pay Pal account but, after the money is transferred out, the initial transaction is reversed leaving the account in negative balance. Multiple reports have also been received from victims stating that their Facebook Messenger accounts have been hacked and that these fraudulent messages have been sent to all their contacts on their behalf.

Top Tips:

- **Protect your online accounts by using a strong separate password.**
- **Be wary of unusual messages asking for assistance with financial transactions.**

In West Yorkshire...

Trader misleading consumers by claiming to work for the council



Reports of a Rogue Trader targeting homes in Huddersfield with leaflets offering 'Free ECO funding & Government Vouchers'. The leaflet looked as though the Trader worked in partnership with Kirklees Council, however this was false. The Trader claimed to offer 'free home improvements' such as boiler repairs and loft insulation. Please note that the Government Green Homes Scheme is not yet live and any traders offering services for 'free' are likely to be false.



Warning to those applying for Universal credit

Fraudsters are preying on benefit recipients, offering to help apply for Universal Credit, while taking some of the payment as an advance for their "services". To apply for universal credit is free and can only be done online. More information about universal credit can be found online at gov.uk



Consumer Warning : Scam NHS Test and Trace Calls and emails

We have received multiple reports of scam callers purporting to be from NHS Test and Trace. The fake calls ask consumers for personal information and even sometimes banking information. Other reports suggest criminals are sending phishing emails and links claiming that the recipient has been in contact with someone diagnosed with Covid-19. These lead to fake websites that are used to steal personal and financial information or infect devices with malware.

Report to us:

Mailbox to deal with reports of Covid-19 Scams in West Yorkshire:
Covid19.Scams@wyjs.org.uk

Past issues of our news alert can be found on the West Yorkshire Joint Services website. Just look for the Trading Standards Service and Covid-19 resources page.

Report scams to Action Fraud:
0300 123 2040

Forward scam emails to
report@phishing.gov.uk



@wytradstandards

Regular updates can also be found on:

@SAFERProject

The month in stats...

West Yorkshire Trading Standards total number of Covid 19 related intelligence reports 20/07/2020 to 16/08/2020 = 28

Yorkshire & Humber total number of Covid 19 related intelligence reports 20/07/2020 to 16/08/2020 = 85

For information about SAFER online workshops contact safer@wyjs.org.uk

Report complaints to Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline:
0808 223 1133