



CORONA VIRUS SCAM ALERT

WEST YORKSHIRE TRADING STANDARDS NEWSLETTER

National Insurance Scam Calls



Victims have reported receiving an automated telephone call telling them their “National Insurance number has been compromised” and in order to fix this and get a new number, the victim needs to “press 1 on their handset to be connected to the caller”.

Once the call is connected, victims are pressured into giving over their personal details in order to receive a new National Insurance number. In reality, they’ve been connected to a criminal who can now use their personal details to commit fraud.

Scams Trending Regionally & Nationally

- Emails which claim to be from Paypal, Netflix, Amazon, Apple and various Internet service providers have increased. These e-mails urge you to log in to your account via the link contained in the e-mail to check your details.
- Emails are being received which claim to be from HM COURTS AND TRIBUNALS stating you have a fine outstanding have been circulating urging you to pay the fee online.

Ticket scams on the increase as lockdown restrictions ease..

Action Fraud is warning the public to take extra care when buying tickets for festivals and events online, as figures from the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime reveal almost £1 million has been lost to ticket fraud so far this year. Only buy tickets from the venue directly, an official promoter or agent, or a well-known and reputable ticket site. Don't be duped by offers on secondary ticketing websites or social media,

Doorstep Traders

We continue to receive reports of doorstep traders using pushy and sometimes aggressive sales tactics to intimidate people, usually the vulnerable and isolated members of our society, into using their services. Please remember if you feel pressured, ask the person to leave and take time to talk to someone you trust before you make any decisions on the doorstep.



HOLIDAY FRAUD



Looking to book a holiday?
Here are our top tips on avoiding
#HolidayFraud

1. **Do your research beforehand.**
2. **Pay by credit card where possible for extra protection.**
3. **Be wary of social media adverts.**
4. **Check you are on a secure website. Look out for https in the top left corner of the web address.**
5. **Check that who you are booking with is a member of ABTA. This means that if a travel company goes under you are financially protected.**

Had a holiday cancelled?

Look out for scam emails offering compensation to holiday makers who have had a trip cancelled due to Covid-19.



Be aware of vaccine passport scams

Scammers are offering fake covid-19 certificates and vaccine passports. Scammers are using methods such as phishing emails and text messages to trick consumers into inputting personal information and charging a 'fee' for the service offered.



The SAFER Project

Award winning Project coming to an end after 9 years.

STATEMENT FROM THE SAFER TEAM:

SAFER Project is coming to an end next week! We would like to say a huge THANK YOU for all your support and engagement over the last 9 years, it has been a real honour working with you all, and we know you will continue to look out for each other.

REMEMBER OUR SAFER TIPS:

- Take5 before thinking about giving away any of your personal and banking information - don't be pressured, check out the caller thoroughly and call them back on a number you know to be genuine. Ask people you trust for help.
- Block scam callers. Speak to your Telecoms provider for help with nuisance / scam callers.
- Avoid clicking links in emails.

Report incidents to Action Fraud and Citizens Advice. Keep talking scams to protect our wonderful communities #ScamAware

SAFER workshops are being recorded and will be available online in the coming weeks.



THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who has helped the SAFER team deliver workshops, partner training and attend community events over the past 9 years.

FOLLOW US FOR REGULAR SCAM UPDATES!



@wytradstandards

Report to us:

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

Report complaints to Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline:
0808 223 1133

Report scams to Action Fraud:
0300 123 2040