

How can I protect myself in the future?

Follow @ActionFrauduk on Twitter, or 'like' us on Facebook and keep up-to-date with the latest scams to watch out for.

The Action Fraud website also lists a handy A-Z of different fraud types as well as our Top Tips to protect yourself from fraud:

actionfraud.police.uk

For additional online safety advice visit Get Safe Online at: getsafeonline.org



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Further information

Please note: We are not able to recover money for victims. Action Fraud reports are passed to the police for investigation and you may be contacted by the police if further investigation takes place.

Action Fraud can provide referral to Victim Support for confidential emotional support and practical help.

If you're involved in or witness a crime happening now, call 999.

If debit or credit cards, online banking or cheques are involved in the fraud your first step should be to contact your bank or credit card company.

ActionFraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
actionfraud.police.uk

Report fraud and
internet crime to
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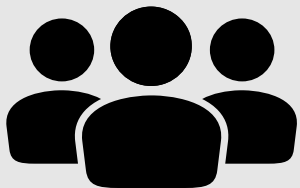
actionfraud.police.uk

What is fraud?

Fraud happens when somebody lies, or deceives you in order to cause harm, usually by costing you money. Even if you have not lost money, you may still have experienced fraud.

You may know fraud better as:

Scams, cons, cheat, swindle, hoax, hoodwink or confidence trick.



£73 billion

The estimated amount fraud and internet crime costs every year

What is internet crime?

There are many forms of internet crime and we are uncovering new cases all the time.

For example: Phishing emails with links to fake websites to trick people into entering personal details or account information.

Criminals that attack your computer with a virus or spyware and try to steal personal information such as user names and passwords.

Online auction scams where the seller asks you to pay by money transfer or direct to their bank account.

The best way to disrupt criminals using the internet to commit crimes is for you to report it.

What is Action Fraud?

Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and internet crime.

Members of the public, the police, businesses and charities can report to Action Fraud online or on the phone. If you are reporting via the website there is online chat support provided.

As Action Fraud takes crime reports on behalf of the police, reporting directly is likely to be quicker and more convenient for you than visiting your local police station.



If you've been a victim of fraud you will receive a crime reference number when you report it to Action Fraud, and your report will be transferred securely to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau for analysis and assessment.

Why it is important to report fraud and internet crime

Fraud and internet crime costs our economy an estimated **£73 billion** every year. This money is often used to fund crimes like drug smuggling, terrorism and people trafficking.

By reporting incidents of fraud or internet crime to Action Fraud you are enabling the police and fraud authorities to build a profile of those committing fraud and catch those involved.

* Source : Annual Fraud Indicator 2012

How do I contact Action Fraud?

The online reporting tool is a straightforward and convenient way to report fraud and internet crime:



actionfraud.police.uk

24 hours a day, seven days a week

If you do not have internet access, or if you feel you require more support, you can also contact Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** and speak to an advisor.

Our phone lines are open:

Mon to Fri – 8am to 9pm
Sat to Sun - 9am to 5pm
Closed Bank Holidays



Calls charged at local rate (0300 phone numbers cost the same as a call to local landline phone numbers, even from a mobile phone).

Who is at risk of fraud?

Anyone can become a victim of fraud. Action Fraud receives fraud reports from people of all ages and from all parts of the country, including from those who thought it could “never happen to me”.

There is no shame in becoming a victim, and the best thing you can do is speak out about it by reporting it to Action Fraud, and help protect other people from becoming victims themselves.