

Fraudsters try to get rich by conning honest people out of their hard-earned cash.

We all need to know when and where to look out for fraud. Here are some simple steps to help protect yourself.



You can help beat fraud

Remember, the only people who don't want you to be suspicious are the fraudsters.

- Stay alert when you switch on your computer, open your post, answer the phone, or go to a cash machine
- Be aware and stay safe from fraud.

Find out more

cifas.org.uk
cityoflondon.police.uk
consumerdirect.gov.uk
getsafeonline.org
met.police.uk/fraudalert
moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk

The National Fraud Strategic Authority

Working with partners across government and business to help protect you from fraudsters and the harm they cause.

attorneygeneral.gov.uk



Keep clear of **fraud**

Who's eyeing up
your money?



Keep clear of **fraud** and protect your personal information

Fraudsters are greedy and enterprising. They often adapt their approach to match what's going on in our day-to-day lives. From emails asking for your bank details following a bank merger, an employment agency asking you for money upfront to start a new job, or an investment opportunity that's only available now. So stay aware!

On your **computer**

Do you have protection from computer viruses?

- Software that blocks viruses and dodgy emails is essential, cheap and can save a lot of trouble
- Don't use one password for everything
- Change your passwords regularly. Don't let anyone persuade you to share your passwords for any part of your computer or online accounts
- Think about what kind of information you want to offer the whole world through social networking sites – and what unscrupulous people could do with it
- Your full address, date of birth and mother's maiden name are valuable information to a fraudster interested in impersonating you.

By **email**

Seen an official-looking email requesting information about your bank account?

- These emails often claim to be part of a security check. Your bank will never ask for this information. Keep your bank details safe
- Got an email that seems to be from your bank suggesting you download some software or click on a link to a website?
- That site is false. It will steal personal data from your computer.

In the **post**

Opened a letter claiming you've won an overseas lottery but need to pay some money up front before you can get your prize?

- The prize does not exist, and honest lottery companies don't ask for money upfront
- Ignore scam letters and emails offering rewards for help in transferring money out of a foreign location.

On the **phone**

Taken a phone call from a stranger inviting you to buy shares that offer a huge profit and pushing you for a quick decision?

- The shares don't exist, or are totally worthless. You won't see your money again if you hand it over.

In the **home**

Keep personal identity documents, passports and bank cards out of sight, so they're not visible to strangers.

- Make the effort to read your bills and bank statements. You may spot evidence of someone else spending your money
- Throwing out bills or bank statements with the rubbish provides fraudsters with a mass of information about you. Get a shredder and destroy them for good.

On your **person**

Having trouble remembering Personal Identification Numbers (PIN) for credit and debit cards?

- Don't write these numbers down where people might see them. Never leave your PIN in the wallet or purse where you keep your plastic cards
- When at the cash point, always stand in front of the keypad and cover it when you put your number in
- Keep your credit card in sight at all times.