



TARIAN

MONTHLY FRAUD ALERT

JANUARY 2024



ROMANCE FRAUD

This month has seen an increase in romance fraud. This involves people being convinced into sending money to criminals who go to great lengths to gain their trust and convince them that they are in a genuine relationship. They use language to manipulate, persuade and exploit so that requests for money do not raise alarm bells.

These requests might be highly emotive, such as criminals claiming they need money for emergency medical care, or to pay for transport costs. Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

CELEBRITY IMPERSONATION

We have also seen an increase in celebrity impersonation scams this month. These scams involve a scammer pretending to be a well-known celebrity or public figure, in order to trick people into giving them money or personal information. The scammer may use a fake social media account or website, or may reach out to victims through an email or messaging app.

Some popular and commonly impersonated celebrities have been Selena Gomez, James Martin, Elon Musk, Gary Barlow and Peter Jones.



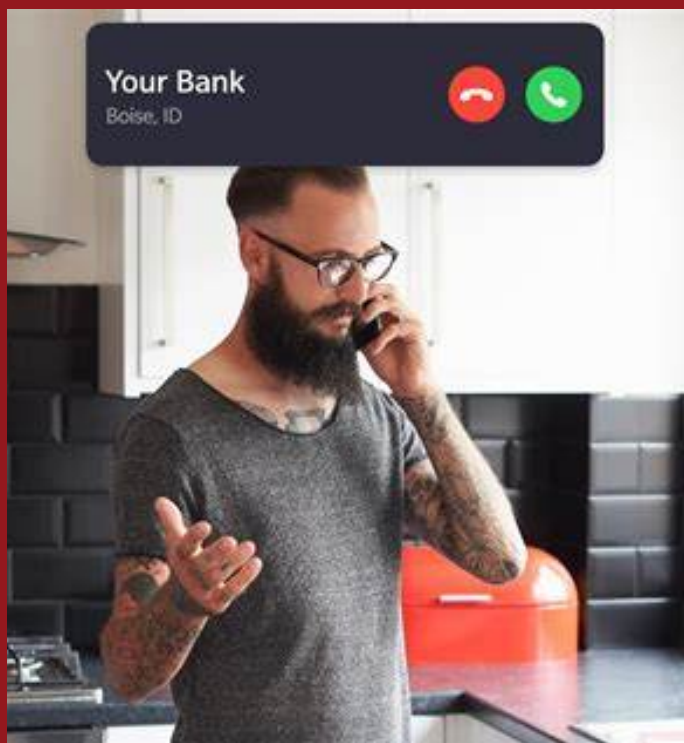
If you think you've uncovered a fraud, been targeted by a fraud or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on [0300 123 2040](tel:03001232040) or via the Action Fraud website.



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COURIER FRAUD

We have had several reports of courier fraud this month. This occurs when a fraudster contacts victims by telephone purporting to be a police officer or bank official. The caller will usually say that some money has been removed from a victim's bank account and staff at their local bank branch are responsible or something similar.

Victims are then asked visit their bank to withdraw their money, withdraw foreign currency from an exchange or purchasing an expensive item to hand over to a courier for examination who will also be a fraudster.

TICKET FRAUD

This month, ticket fraud has been on the rise. This is a scam where people pay for tickets to events but they are either overpriced, fake, or never delivered. Fraudsters use fake websites, social media, or auction sites to lure buyers with images and graphics taken from genuine sellers. Ticket fraud often targets popular events that have high demand and limited availability. Buyers should be wary of paying by bank transfer and buying from sites that have similar names or websites to legitimate ones.

Visit www.actionfraud.police.uk for help.



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