



DEVON & CORNWALL
CONSTABULARY

FROM THE BEAT

POLICE NEWS AND ADVICE

SCAMS – DONT LET THEM FOOL YOU

There are always all manner of SCAM going on. These will arrive over the internet, through your post, unsolicited telephone calls and sometimes even via a door step caller. We give the same advice with regards to any get rich quick or surprise win scheme. If it seems too good to be true it almost certainly is. Always consult others before you commit to anything and never believe that you have to do something there and then. Here are some pointers that should help to educate and if adhered to keep you safe.

These schemes usually have a plausible and persuasive patter explaining you will benefit with little effort or risk. Here are some common scheme types:

- You've won a major prize in a lottery or draw, even if you haven't entered one
- You have exclusive entry to a scheme that's 'guaranteed' to make you money
- Earn easy money by agreeing to help them get sums of money out of their country
- A chance to join an investment scheme that will make you vast amounts of cash
- Door step caller / requesting assistance / selling items / lost - looking for someone or Something

However, they will be aiming to trick you into doing something along these lines:

- Send money up front: They may request this in all kinds of ways, such as saying it's an administration fee or tax, but however it's dressed up, the aim is to get you to give up some of your money (and remember, you've not received anything yet, except hollow promises which will inevitably turn out to be false)
- Give them your bank, credit card or other personal details: NEVER fall for this one. You should always be very wary who you give such details to. If anyone asks this of you report the matter to your bank immediately
- Ring an expensive premium rate phone number: this could cost you a fortune. One simple way to avoid phone scams is to block your phone line from being able to make premium rate calls, contact your phone company about how to do this.
- Buy something first in order to collect a prize: there will be no prize or, at best, it'll be worthless. If you receive an e-mail you consider to be a scam then our best advice is to delete without opening it.

More Help and Advice

- **Devon County Council:** They have excellent and comprehensive advice pages on their SCAMWISE section www.devon.gov.uk/getscamwise or call on 08454 04 05 06
- **Citizens Advice:** Also have good advice pages on www.citizensadvice.org.uk/spotthescam.htm or you can call them on 08444 111 444
- **Police:** You can call the police to report a SCAM on our Action Fraud Report Line 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.org.uk. We will advise you how to protect yourself from further abuse. Please bear in mind these schemes are very often based overseas.

You may also minimise correspondence through post and mail or via telephone contact, by signing up to **TPS**, telephone preference service and or **MPS**, the mail preference service.

TPS

- The Telephone Preference Service (TPS) is a free service. It is the official central opt out register on which you can record your preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls.
- **It is a legal requirement that all organisations (including charities, voluntary organisations and political parties) do not make such calls to numbers registered on the TPS unless they have your consent to do so.**

Registration line **0845 070 0707** – number for registration or go on line at

www.tpsonline.org.uk

MPS

- The Mailing Preference Service (MPS) is a free service set up 20 years ago and funded by the direct mail industry to enable consumers to have their names and home addresses in the UK removed from lists used by the industry. It is actively supported by the Royal Mail and all directly involved trade associations and fully supported by The Information Commissioners Office.

www.mpsonline.org.uk

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