

Can I spot online fraud?



Internet Safety
Starts with **you.**



The internet has made life considerably easier for criminals to commit fraud. This is because of the sheer number of us using it, the fact that we tend to feel relaxed and trusting online, and the fact that they can remain relatively anonymous.

Everything you do online carries some kind of risk, but there are a number of tell-tale signs that, if present, should make you stop and think before it's too late:

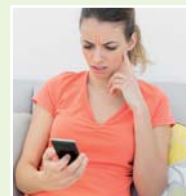
- **Approaches** – even from people you know – that are unusual, such as requesting confidential information or telling you something is urgent.
- **Unexpected attachments** in emails, or links in emails, messages, texts or posts.
- **Requests for money** from someone you've got to know online.
- **Requests for up-front payments** for certain services or goods, especially via direct bank transfer.
- **Requests from organisations** or individuals you make regular payments to, to change their payment details.
- **Unsecured** payment pages

... or anything else that makes you think there's something not quite right



"When I opened the 'invoice' attachment in an email from my regular shopping site, I didn't know my laptop would get infected with malware that would spy on my transactions. It looked so realistic anyone would have fallen for it."
Iain, Inverness

"If only I'd thought twice before sending thousands of pounds to this guy I met online so he could get home. Turns out it was an organised crime gang ... I'm gutted."
Sharon, Crawley



"Scammers had hacked our solicitor's email and sent me details of where to transfer the money for our new house. Thinking it was genuine, I did it there and then, so we lost the money ... and the house."
Jamal, Peterborough

Play it safe!

For more information on how to spot online fraud, please visit www.getsafeonline.org and click 'Protecting Yourself'

Please take time to read these tips and pass them on to family members, friends and work colleagues.

If you have been a victim of fraud

Report it to Action Fraud by calling **0300 123 20 40** or by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk

Also, report fraud to any website or ISP where you've been defrauded. This applies however large or small the amount, it could protect others, and the proceeds of fraud are often used to fund activities like terrorism and human trafficking.

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Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security, for the public and small businesses. It is a not-for-profit, public/private sector partnership backed by a number of government departments, law enforcement agencies and leading organisations in internet security, banking and retail.

Our advice is free, authoritative, informative, impartial and easy to follow.

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you.



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