Don't become prey for a fraudster

Internet Safety Starts with you.

GET SAFE ONLINE .org

www.getsafeonline.org

Do you click on links in unexpected emails, posts or texts, or open email attachments? Or reveal your confidential details to a total stranger who's called claiming to be from your bank, your credit card company or the police?

If so, you could become easy prey for a fraudster. They get you on the hook, reel you in, and before you know it, you've given away your PINs, passwords …everything they need to steal your hard-earned money, never to be seen again.

Millions of people in the UK get defrauded in this way every year, and we'd like to help you protect yourself against becoming one of them.

It's easy – start by reading Gelly's expert tips to avoid online and phone scams.

Think **twice** BEFORE YOU ACT

Gelly's top tips to avoid online and phone scams

- Never give out personal or financial data including usernames, passwords, PINs, ID numbers or memorable phrases.
- Be very careful that people or organisations who you're supplying payment card or other confidential information to are genuine, and even then, never reveal passwords. A bank, HMRC, retailer or other reputable organisation won't ask you for your password or PIN via email, phone call or any other means.
- If you're asked by a caller to cut off the call and phone your bank or card provider, be sure to use another phone from the one you received the call on or leave it for five minutes before you make the call, in case the sender number has been spoofed or the line left open. Better still, call the number on your bank statement or other document from your bank – or on the back of your card.
- Don't open email attachments from unknown sources as they could well contain malware. Delete them, and take the details to report if appropriate.
- Don't click on links in emails from senders you don't know. Instead, roll your mouse pointer or finger over the link to reveal the actual sender. If they're different, it's a scam. Even if you get an email that seems to come from someone you might know – but it seems unusual – the sender may be a fraudster who's spoofed their address. If in doubt, call (but don't email) the sender.
- Don't attach external storage devices like USB sticks or hard drives – or insert CD-ROMs/DVD-ROMs into your computer – if you're uncertain of the source. This is a favourite way for fraudsters to spread malware.

Report it!

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.

For more information on protecting yourself from fraudsters, please visit www.getsafeonline.org, click *'Protecting Yourself'* and select *'Social Engineering'*

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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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