

Preventing scams

Some advice on beating the scammers

A scam is a scheme designed to con you out of your cash

There are hundreds of types of scams – fake lotteries and prize draws, incredible schemes to make money quickly, fake investment plans, work from home schemes – the list goes on and on.

How scam artists succeed - they will:

- Catch you unawares, contacting you, without you asking them to, by phone, email, post or in person.
- Sound pleasant, well spoken and kind and want you to think they're your friend.
- Have slick, professional leaflets and letters.
- Be persistent and rush you into a decision.
- Ask you to send money before you receive their tempting offer or win.

What they'll ask you to do:

- Send money upfront.
- Give them your bank details.
- Ring a premium rate number (all UK premium rate numbers begin with 090).
- Buy something to get your prize.

They will lie to you and give you what seem to be good reasons why you should do what they say. They will answer all your objections.

What will scammers offer you - they'll offer you something for nothing - such as:

- You've won a prize in a draw or a lottery (even though you haven't entered one).
- An exclusive entry to a scheme that's a surefire way to make money.
- A way to earn easy money by helping them get untold millions out of their country.
- The chance to join an investment scheme that will make you huge amounts of money; and so on.



For general enquiries or to report a non-urgent crime call 01202 222 222

only dial 999 if a life is in danger or a crime is in progress

www.dorset.police.uk

Preventing scams

Some advice on beating the scammers

"DO NOT PASS YOUR BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS TO ANYONE OVER THE PHONE"

"BEWARE OF PERSONS WHO CLAIM THAT YOU HAVE WON MONEY IT IS LIKELY TO BE A SCAM"

"NEVER SEND ANYTHING WITH OUT BEING SURE OF ITS DESTINATION"

"IF IT SOUNDS TO GOOD TO BE TRUE, THEN IT OFTEN IS"

If you have been a victim of a scam you should report it straight away

Dorset Police

01305 / 01202 222 222

www.dorset.police.uk

The Office of Fair Trading

08457 224 499

www.oft.gov.uk

Financial Services Authority

08456 061 234

www.fsa.gov.uk

Trading Standards

01305 / 01202 224012

www.tradingstandards.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau

Find your nearest CAB online

www.adviceguide.org.uk

Consumer Direct

08454 040 506

www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

Stop, think and be sceptical



For general enquiries or to report a non-urgent crime call 01202 222 222

only dial 999 if a life is in danger or a crime is in progress

www.dorset.police.uk