



North Yorkshire Police Fraud Newsletter - May 2021

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Hello and welcome to May's monthly fraud update newsletter for North Yorkshire.

We want to make sure this newsletter is useful to you and your communities so please do let us know what you think and feel free to share with friends, family and colleagues.

If you know anyone who would like to be added to our distribution list please email: carys.samuel@northyorkshire.police.uk

As always, if you need to report a crime or scam please call 101 or 999 if it is an emergency.

Scams of the month

Bogus police officer calls – the scam that won't go away!

We're still seeing a number of frauds reported to us where the victim has been contacted by someone claiming to be either from the bank or the police. The fraudster is very effective at making the call look authentic in a number of ways and we've had some examples where they've even asked their 'colleagues' from the police force to get in touch to further convince the victim it is legitimate.

Often the number displayed on the handset will appear to be the bank's phone number, a tactic known as number spoofing. The scammer also appears to know a number of personal details about the victim. All tactics to make their scam as

effective as possible in getting your money.

If you receive a call like this hang up immediately. Remember, the police or your bank will never call and tell you to pay or transfer money.

Read how to verify a police officer on our website:

www.northyorkshire.police.uk/staying-safe/fraud/how-to-verify-a-police-officer

Census scams

Texts have been received which appear to be from the Government Census team and state that the recipient has not completed their census form properly or not completed it at all.

The texts threaten the recipient with a £1,000 fine unless they log onto a website or call a number to complete the Census. The recipient would then follow the link or call the phone number and provide their personal details allowing the scammer a lot of information with which to attempt to scam the receiver in future.

If you receive a text like this, forward it to the National Cyber Security Centre on 7726.

The Government has confirmed you will only be contacted about the Census by a branded letter being sent to your home or by a Census field officer visiting your home. If someone visits you claiming to be from the Census, check their identification before giving them any information.

People's Postcode Lottery

We've had some reports of letters received which claim to be from the People's Postcode Lottery and state the receiver has won a sum of money. The letter asks the recipient to call a number and pay a processing fee in order to release the money they have won.

This is clearly an attempt for scammers to obtain the recipient's bank details. If you receive a letter like this, do not call the phone number on it. **No legitimate lottery or competition will require you to pay any fees in order to get your money.**

You can find more information on the Postcode Lottery

website: www.postcodelottery.co.uk/about-us/faq/avoiding-scams

Royal Mail/courier delivery notifications

Text messages claiming to be from either Royal Mail or DPD advising that your parcel is waiting to be delivered and requires a small fee to release it, providing a link to a fake website.

Once you've entered your card details, the scammers use the opportunity to contact you claiming to be from your bank. They will do their best to convince you there has been suspicious activity on their account and that you need to move your money to a 'safe' account. They will give you a sort code and account number to transfer your money into and it will look as if this new account has been set up in your name, but it is actually under the criminal's control.

If you receive a text or email like this, you can forward it to: phishing@ncsc.gov.uk or texts to 7726 and then delete. Do not click on any links.

How to: protect yourself from scam callers

The majority of frauds reported to us involve the victim being contacted by the scammer via the telephone. There are a number of ways you can protect your phone and help prevent scam or nuisance calls:

- If you have a landline, purchase a new phone with a built-in call blocker or;
- Purchase a stand-alone call blocker
- Contact your phone provider to discuss what call blocking services they offer
- Register your phone number/s with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) – this can help to stop nuisance calls. You can register online at the TPS website: www.tpsonline.org.uk
- Be careful where you share your phone number and what opt ins you choose when providing your information to companies and organisations.
- Hang up – if you receive a call that doesn't feel right, hang up.

Talks and Events

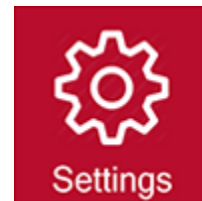
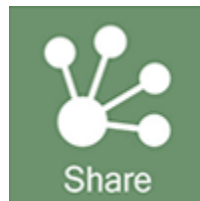
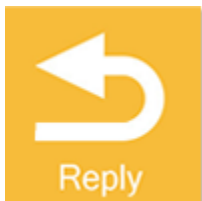
- Attend our **free online 'Ask the Experts' event on Online Banking Safety – 22nd June 2021 7pm - 9pm**. Register at the Eventbrite website: www.eventbrite.co.uk/ask-the-experts
- If you are organising an event and would like our police volunteers to attend to give fraud prevention advice and materials, please email Andy Fox on andy.fox@northyorkshire.police.uk
- Can you share our safety posters? You can download them from our website or email carys.samuel@northyorkshire.police.uk if you need printed copies.

If your community organisation or group would like to arrange a virtual fraud prevention talk then email our Financial Abuse Safeguarding Officer, Andy Fox on andy.fox@northyorkshire.police.uk and he will be happy to help.

Message Sent By

Carys Samuel (Police, Corp Comms Manager, North Yorkshire)

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