

10 rules to prevent fraud and scams

Fraud and scams are a way of someone deceiving victims to enable them to benefit (often financially). They are often referred to as fraudsters or scammers. The rules below are there to help prevent you becoming a victim of fraud or scams.

1. Be mindful, if it seems 'too good to be true' it probably is.
2. Do not agree to deals and offers straight away. Advise that you need time to obtain independent advice prior to deciding.
3. Do not give money or sign anything until you have checked the credentials of the company.
4. Never send money to anyone you do not know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment you're unsure of.
5. Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on the links in an email.
6. Never provide bank or personal details to anyone you do not know or trust. Remember banks will never ask you to reveal personal information including your pin, password or online accounts.
7. Don't just rely on glowing recommendations. Ensure you find solid, independent evidence of a company's success, for example visiting Hampshire Trading Standards 'Buy with Confidence' directory.
8. Ensure you obtain independent or legal advice if an offer or deal involves money, time or commitment.
9. If you recognise a scam or have been affected by a scam, ensure you report it and get help. Contacting Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or call the Police on 999 (emergency) or 101 (non-emergency).
10. Never be embarrassed about reporting a fraud or scam. Scammers are clever and there is no shame in being deceived. Reporting the concern will make it more difficult for them to deceive and affect others.