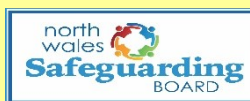


Scams



A scam is a scheme to try to steal money, personal information or data from a person or organisation. Other names for a scam include fraud, hoax, con, swindle and cheat. The National Audit Office (NAO) have estimated that individuals lose £10 billion a year due to online fraud.

What is a scam?

Estimates from the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) showed that there were 4.4 million fraud offences in the last 12 months.

- Of those with a disability or long term illness, 45% said they had been targeted
- Half (50%) of those at an increased risk of coronavirus or shielding had been contacted.
- Over half (54%) of those who have lost personal income due to the virus had also been contacted.

In North Wales we have seen a rise in scammers targeting people with finance-related schemes. You should look out for scams like:

- Adverts offering fake “Get Rich Quick” schemes
- Phone calls, texts or emails pretending to be from your

- bank, asking you to move your money or to provide your personal details
- Scam emails or automated calls pretending to be from the government or an official company
- An offer of a pensions reviews out of the blue.

Financial scams

When making financial decisions, there are some things people can do to minimise the risk of being scammed:

Don't give any money or bank details to anyone you don't know or have only met online. Be wary of unexpected contact.

Be cautious of investment opportunities, particularly if they seem too good to be true. Seek professional advice before making any decisions.

Research whoever you're dealing with. Almost all financial services firms must be authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) – if they're not, it's probably a scam.

It's important to always keep an eye out for scams. They can and do affect anyone.

Spotting a scam:

- It seems too good to be true – like an email saying you've

won a competition you don't remember entering.

- Someone you don't know contacts you unexpectedly.
- You're being urged to respond quickly so you don't get time to think about it or talk to family and friends.
- You've been asked to pay for something urgently or in an unusual way – for example by bank transfer or gift vouchers.
- You've been asked to give away personal information.

There are some simple steps people can take to help protect themselves from scams:

- Don't be rushed into making any quick decisions. It's okay to

take your time.

- Never give money or personal details, like passwords or bank details, to anyone you don't know, trust or have only met online. If someone pressures you for these, it's most likely a scam.
- Before you buy anything, check the company or website you're using. Read reviews from different websites, search for the company's details on Companies House, and take a look at their terms and conditions.
- Pay by debit or credit card. This gives you extra protection if things go wrong.
- Be suspicious. Scammers can be very smart.