



Dear Tony Maher

This is the seventeenth in a series of emails containing a short summary of current fraud trends, future risks and some preventive measures we have seen across all industries and sectors. We encourage you to cascade this information to your staff, clients, members and networks.

Our thanks go to members of our COVID-19 fraud watch group for sharing this information with us.

The COVID-19 fraud watch group is a cross-sector and cross-industry coalition of trusted partners (including the Cabinet Office and City of London Police) who meet to share information on emerging fraud threats and trends affecting business. It aims to act as a conduit to warn the public, private and third sectors about COVID-19 fraud risks and the preventative actions that can be taken.

Current COVID-19 fraud risks

- Fraudulent documents (esp. passports and degree certificates)
- Investment fraud (esp. on social media)
- Fraudulent telephone calls (esp. Amazon and government agencies)
- Business impersonation fraud

- Phishing emails (esp. TV licencing and HMRC)

Anticipated and/or emerging issues

- A number of companies are being sold on eBay which could potentially be used in bounce back loan fraud.
- Fraudsters are using the direct messaging feature on Instagram to advertise fake investment opportunities.
- A number of hacked Facebook messenger accounts are being used to ask individuals to receive money through PayPal for items sold on eBay. They are then asked to forward the money to the fraudsters bank account.

Some simple preventative tips ...


- Registering with the [Telephone Preference Service](#) allows people and businesses to opt out of unsolicited live sales and marketing calls.
- Fraudulent texts can be reported directly to mobile phone providers by forwarding the message to the free number 7726.
- Businesses should check the legitimacy of professional qualifications directly with the awarding body or organisation.



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