Online Scams

Insight

What is online scamming?

Online scamming encompasses fraudulent schemes carried out via the internet, designed to deceive individuals and unlawfully obtain money, personal information, or other valuable assets. Scammers frequently exploit trust, fear, or greed, employing a variety of sophisticated methods to manipulate and defraud their targets.

Understanding fraud:

Fraud occurs when individuals are deceived and unlawfully deprived of their money. Fraudsters and hackers engage in fraudulent activities by stealing personal information, banking details, or funds through deceit and manipulation, often exploiting vulnerabilities in individuals, including young people.

Types of online scams:

Phishing scams involve fraudulent emails or messages that impersonate legitimate organisations to steal sensitive information, such as passwords or financial details.

Impersonation scams target victims by pretending to be trusted figures, such as government officials or family members, to obtain money or data.

Online shopping scams lure individuals to fake websites offering non-existent goods or services. Investment scams promise high returns on fraudulent schemes, often involving cryptocurrencies or fake opportunities.

Romance scams manipulate victims through fake emotional connections, while tech support scams pose as IT professionals to gain access to personal devices.

Lottery and prize scams falsely claim winnings to extract fees or information, and employment scams offer fake jobs requiring upfront payments.

How to keep safe online:

- Create strong passwords
- Never share personal details online with anyone else
- Only use well known apps, websites and games
- Be cautious about opening links
- **IF IT SOUNDS GOOD TO BE TRUE - THEN IT PROBABLY IS!**

Ways to safeguard against scams:

-Change your passwords - use a password manager
- Enable two-factor authentication (2FA).
- Monitor your accounts – Check for malware or spyware!
- Report any suspicious incidents:
  - At work: To your IT department
  - At home: To The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC)
- KEEP YOUR DEVICE UP TO DATE!

Support:

STOP - THINK - VERIFY

Pause before acting, consider if it might be a scam, and confirm with a trusted person. Remember that scammers prey on people's kindness, trust and willingness to help. If you have been a victim of a scam, fraud or online crime (cybercrime) you can report it to Action Fraud.

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Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility; everyone has a duty of care to protect people from harm.

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