



Issue 5 June 2021

This is your regular e-newsletter. If you have an item to include in the next newsletter please send it to: [Rebecca.spilane@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Rebecca.spilane@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk). Items may be subject to editing. We welcome submissions from any staff on work related topics.

## Welcome...

...to this edition of the Fraud Safeguarding Newsletter. I have included a brief overview of the current trends for fraud and some useful advice to give to members of the public in the coming weeks as the world opens up to try to protect people from becoming victims of fraud when booking holidays.

Rebecca Spilane, Fraud Vulnerability Officer



## Current trends

During June, there were **453** reports made from victims of fraud in Leicestershire to Action Fraud.

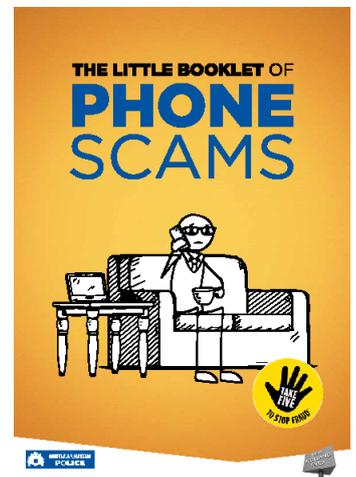
**18** of these were businesses and **435** were individuals.

We are still seeing a rise in telephone scams, including those using the spoofed 0116 2222222 telephone number. There is an increase in a particular MO where they are asking people how much money they have got in their account before proceeding to scam them, evidently they have decided to work out whether it is worth their time going through the process of scamming people only to get to the end of the call and find out the victim they are talking to hasn't got much money!

There is also a rise in the number of calls telling people their National Insurance number has been compromised, this is linked to offences involving drugs or that there is a warrant out for their arrest and that they need to pay for a new one.

It is really important to reiterate to people that the bank, police and HMRC etc will never ask for money over the phone.

Please click on the Little Book Of Phone Scams which you can share as you like. I have also included some other useful leaflets on this email that you can share as well.



## Events

### Pop up Fraud and Cyber scams awareness stands

Melton Building Society from 10am-2pm on Wednesday 7 July at 13 High Street Oakham and on 21 July and 13 August at 18 Nottingham Street Melton. Feel free to drop in and say hi!

## Helpful information

It's the time of year where people are looking to go on holiday. So here are a few tips to help protect people from becoming victims of fraud and cyber crime.

Criminals set-up convincing websites with holidays at too-good-to-be-true prices.

Before parting with any money:

- ◆ Do your homework and check the reviews and other information of the company you're buying from.
- ◆ Use your search engine to check if anyone else has reported anything bad.
- ◆ Always access the website you're purchasing from by typing it into your web browser and be wary of clicking on links in unsolicited emails or social media posts.
- ◆ Where possible, use a credit card when making purchases over £100 and up to £30,000 as you receive protection under Section 75 of the Credit Consumer Act.



Everybody's lives are on their phones these days. It is really important to ensure that people know to keep their devices secure and not let their guard down while they are away on holiday.

So, before you go consider the following points:

- ◆ Use a VPN (Virtual Private Network) – Your phone's physical safety is important you will also need to protect what is stored on it, everything from passwords to credit card details.
- ◆ Never leave it on a table or in your room giving the opportunity for it and your information to be stolen.
- ◆ Activate strong and secure passwords or biometric security this will help to stop unwanted access.
- ◆ Use a tracking app which may help to find your phone if stolen or lost.
- ◆ Make sure you have travel insurance to cover your devices.
- ◆ Back up your data before you go so if your phone is lost or stolen then you won't lose your photos or information.
- ◆ Be aware of free/public WIFI which can be insecure and hackers can intercept and see what you are typing in or looking at.
- ◆ Some phones have remote wiping so if it is stolen you can wipe your information off the phone hopefully knowing you have all your data backed up elsewhere.

PCSO Tiff Row Cyber Protect

### **EAST MIDLANDS CYBER SECURE**

[www.eastmidlandscybersecure.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandscybersecure.co.uk)

This website has been created by the regional East Midlands Cyber Protect Network. It consists of police officers and staff from the five forces in the region whose goal is to help protect individuals and organisations from the adverse effects of cyber-crime. It contains some really useful prevention tips.

## A word from the boss...

I would like to mention the further spike in courier fraud we have seen over the past couple of weeks. First and foremost I would urge people living across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to remain vigilant and be aware of such scams.

These types of fraudsters often target the elderly and vulnerable. Please encourage people to speak to family members, neighbours and friends and pass the message on so they do not fall victim.

**Paul Wenlock ECU Manager**

## Useful Contacts

### Fraud Safeguarding

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### Fraud enquiries

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### Fraud assessment team

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