



CORONA VIRUS SCAM ALERT

WEST YORKSHIRE TRADING STANDARDS NEWSLETTER

West Yorkshire Trading Standards weekly update on COVID-19 related scams.



Phishing and Smishing scams on the rise...

- The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) has received evidence of scams where homeworkers are receiving bogus texts and emails claiming to be from Zoom. One message claims to be from "Zoom Mail" which informs the recipient that a "Zoom voicemail" has been received and that they should call a premium rate number that the message claims costs "£6 plus standard network rate".
- Reports of emails purporting to be from TV Licensing stating that your TV licence has expired and the recipient needs to set up a direct debit.
- Reports of scam messages purporting to be from Uber. The message sends a fake activation code and an option to unsubscribe by texting the number back. The number is a premium rate text message scam.
- Several consumers in the UK are still being contacted by fraudsters purporting to be HMRC offering tax refunds.

Bitcoin Scam targets twitter users:



Consumers are being warned not to fall victim to bitcoin scams. This comes after several high profile twitter accounts were hacked this week by bitcoin scammers. Bitcoin, a type of cryptocurrency, is a digital currency that is completely virtual... it's like an online version of cash. The physical bitcoins you see in photos are a novelty, bitcoins are worthless without private codes printed inside them. Scam firms can manipulate software to distort prices and investment returns. They may scam people into buying non-existent cryptoassets. Consumers are advised to always be wary if you are contacted out of the blue, pressured to invest quickly or promised returns that sound too good to be true.



SAFER Project delivering free online workshops for community groups.

Our SAFER (Scams And Frauds Education for Residents) project have adapted to the current situation and are now offering free online Community Workshops for West Yorkshire residents and free online Partner Training sessions for frontline workers. All workshops raise awareness about scams, tactics used and how to protect ourselves and the community. Workshops available include:

Scams and
Frauds

Doorstep
Crime

Consumer
Savvy

Energy
Savvy

To find out more please email safer@wyjs.org.uk



Report to us:

Mailbox to deal
with reports of Covid-19 Scams in West
Yorkshire:
Covid19.Scams@wyjs.org.uk

Past issues of our news alert can be found on the West Yorkshire Joint services website. Just look for the Trading Standards service and covid-19 resources page.

Report scams to Action Fraud:
0300 123 2040



@wytradstandards

Regular updates can also be found on:

@SAFERProject

JULY 2020

The week in stats...

West Yorkshire = 16 COVID-19 intelligence logs submitted from 06.07.2020 - 12.07.2020 and 21 complaints / enquiries

COVID-19 intelligence logs for Yorkshire & Humber Region from 06.07.2020 - 12.07.2020 =25

Total Amount of National Trading Standards Sanitised Intelligence Logs - 6192 (01.03.2020- 12.07.2020)

**Forward scam emails to
report@phishing.gov.uk**

**Report complaints to Citizens
Advice Consumer Helpline:
0808 223 1133**

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