

# Trading Standards Scams News

A round-up of the latest scams alerts



SPRING 2026

## Welcome to our Spring Scams Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the Leicestershire Trading Standards Service scams newsletter. Here you will find details of the latest scams and information about how to protect yourself and report a scam.

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### Rogue Trader Warning

#### **Beware of Rogue doorstep roofing traders this spring**

As the weather improves and we move into spring, we often see an increase in reports of roofing work being offered door-to-door. While many roofing businesses are legitimate, residents should be aware that rogue traders frequently target homeowners at this time of year, claiming that urgent repairs are needed following winter weather.

Common tactics include knocking on doors and saying that tiles are loose, gutters are damaged, or that your roof needs immediate attention. In some cases, traders may offer to carry out a quick inspection and then pressure you into agreeing to expensive work on the spot. Unfortunately, this work is often unnecessary, overpriced, or carried out to a poor standard.

To protect yourself, never feel pressured to agree to work straight away. Take time to get at least three quotes from reputable companies, and check that traders have a proper business address and good reviews. Avoid paying large amounts of money upfront and always ask for written details of the work to be completed.



If someone calls at your door offering roofing work you did not request, you have the right to say no. Legitimate traders will not pressure you into making a quick decision.

✔ To prevent this happening, we advise the following;


- ✔ Never engage with cold callers knocking on your door or who call out of the blue.
- ✔ Get three quotes from different and independently sourced traders, and make sure everything agreed is in writing.
- ✔ Never pay by cash, pay securely via a credit card or bank transfer.
- ✔ Don't feel pressured into agreeing work or paying all money up front before work starts – these are red flags.

If you are concerned about a trader or believe you may have been targeted by a scam, report it to Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133 or online at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk).

Staying informed and taking a few simple precautions can help prevent you from becoming a victim of roofing scams. Visit <https://www.reportfraud.police.uk>

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## Holiday Fraud

 **As the holiday season approaches and families across the UK begin searching for the perfect getaway, scammers are sharpening their tactics.**

To help you stay safe when booking your next break, here are the most common scams currently circulating and how to avoid them.

### Fake Accommodation Listings

Fraudsters create convincing advertisements for villas, cottages, or holiday homes, often using stolen photos. These listings appear on social media, online marketplaces, or fake booking websites. Victims pay deposits only to find the property doesn't exist or is already booked. These scams are among the most common reported to Report Fraud.

 **Tip:** Book only through reputable sites and avoid bank transfers.

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## ✈️ Discounted Flights & “Too-Good-To-Be-True” Deals

Scammers frequently advertise cheap flights or luxury holidays on social media at heavily discounted prices. Cloning legitimate websites is another tactic fraudsters will use to lure people into entering payment details on a fake website, and by putting pressure on shoppers to pay quickly to ‘secure the offer.’

💡 **Tip:** Buy flights and holidays directly from airlines or trusted agents.

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## ✉️ Impersonation Emails from Airlines or Hotels

Fraudsters send fake booking confirmations or messages asking you to “verify” details or confirm your booking, leading to identity theft or unauthorised charges.

💡 **Tip:** Contact airlines or hotels using official channels if anything looks suspicious.

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## 💳 Unsafe Payment Requests

Requests to pay via bank transfer, wire, or money transfer services (such as Western Union or Money Gram), gift cards, or unfamiliar payment apps are a major red flag. These methods make recovering your money nearly impossible if things go wrong.

💡 **Tip:** Use credit cards for added protection.

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## 🛡️ How to Stay Safe

- ✓ Research travel companies thoroughly and check for ABTA/ATOL membership (as they offer some protection) and always check independent review websites, for example, Tripadvisor or Trustpilot, **before** booking anything
- ✓ Paying by credit card where possible, this will offer fraud protection under the Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act. You can use a debit card on

legitimate websites, but this will only provide limited consumer protection under the chargeback scheme

- ✓ Being cautious of unsolicited holiday deals or social media posts that sound unrealistically good, along with limited or vague 'company' details.
- ✓ Stick to booking through well known travel companies. Avoid unfamiliar websites and platforms as these may not use secure payment methods.
- ✓ Beware of emails or text messages claiming to be from legitimate travel companies requesting payment and/or personal details for account verification.

To report fraud and for further information, you can visit 🖱️ [Holiday fraud - Report Fraud](#)

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# Employment & Work from Home Scams


## **Employment and work from home scams continue to rapidly rise**


Scammers are using more sophisticated tactics such as artificial intelligence (also known as AI) to create convincing fake job offers, to exploit the popularity of working from home and the financial pressures many people face.

Common types of this scam to look out for:

 **Fake job listings** - Criminals pose as genuine employers to steal personal information such as bank details or National Insurance numbers. The fake jobs can often be listed on social media platforms, online marketplaces, messaging apps, and fake recruitment websites.





 **Upfront payment scams** - Scammers promise high pay, flexible hours, and no experience required. Once the victim has responded, they are asked to pay for background checks, work equipment, and training materials that are never received.

 **Long-Duration Fake Employment** - jobs may be offered to recruit victims under the guise of easy work from home roles, only to be working for a fraudulent company. This can continue for months without the victim realising. At some point they are then asked to invest money into the scheme for a project or pay some sort of tax for example.

Several factors are fuelling the rapid rise of this type of fraud such as artificial intelligence, cost of living pressures, the demand for remote working and digital recruitment.

Common red flags to look out for:

 **Upfront Fees** - Legitimate employers will not ask for payments to process your application, cover training materials, or access work equipment.

 **Non verifiable company details** - such as no online presence, vague business addresses, or recently created websites.

🚨 Poor communication – look out for generic emails, spelling and grammar errors, or refusal to speak on the phone.

🚨 Pressure to act quickly – Limited time job offers, tempting offers with high rewards for little effort, and urgent start dates.

### How to Protect Yourself -

You can reduce your risk by taking a few simple precautions:

🔍 **Research** the company thoroughly. Check official websites, Companies House, and independent reviews.

✗ **Never pay** to secure a job or access wages.

! **Be cautious** about sharing personal or financial information until employment is verified.

🚫 **Avoid** roles that ask you to move or receive money on behalf of someone else.

😬 **Trust your instincts** – if something feels wrong, take a step back



Ask Silver is a free AI powered scam checking tool which is accessible via WhatsApp, designed to protect us from scams.

You can upload a screenshot of any suspicious texts, emails, or websites and receive a breakdown of any red flags and suggestions for next steps on staying safe

Find out more here  <https://www.ask-silver.com/>

# Finally....

## ⚙️ Useful tools and resources:

- Check if something might be a scam here

👉 [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam)

- Check if a telephone number might be a scam here 👉 [www.who-called.co.uk](http://www.who-called.co.uk)

☎️ If you would like to report a scam, or you have been a victim of fraud, you can get in touch with the following organisations:

- Report Fraud – [www.reportfraud.police.uk](http://www.reportfraud.police.uk) or call on 0300 123 2040 to report fraud and cyber crime
- Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline - 0808 223 1133 for further advice and next steps.
- If you think fraudsters may have obtained your money, contact your bank immediately using the contact details on the back of your card or bank statement.
- To keep up to date with the latest scams advice & information, you can join over 2700 followers on the Leicestershire Trading Standards Service Facebook page here 👉 [www.facebook.com/leicstradingstandards](http://www.facebook.com/leicstradingstandards)



## Leicestershire Trading Standards Service

Email: [tradingstandards@leics.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@leics.gov.uk) Facebook/[LeicsTradingStandards](https://www.facebook.com/LeicsTradingStandards)

**STOP!**  
**THINK FRAUD**  
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRAUD

Find out how to stay ahead of  
scams at [gov.uk/stopthinkfraud](http://gov.uk/stopthinkfraud) >>

  
UK Government