

POSTAL FRAUD

THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES

LOTTERY / PRIZE DRAW

These are two of the most common scams.

PARCEL DELIVERY

A card is posted through the victim's door stating that a delivery service was unable to deliver a parcel and they need to contact the service by phone.

They're given a premium rate number to call. It turns out to be a long, recorded message and all the victim receives is a hefty phone bill.

PRIZE HOLDING

Scammers know that all people whose names are on their lists will already have sent money to scams and been tricked into thinking a cheque or prize is coming their way.

They try to cash in again by saying that an unclaimed prize is being held in their name, but a payment is required to release it.

Victims are told they have won a fantastic prize or large amount of cash but are asked to send some sort of fee to release it.

BANKS

Scammers sometimes send out authentic looking scam mail claiming to be from banks or building societies, asking for information and/or cash.

It's more prolific via email but is also being sent by post.

DEBT RECOVERY

Scammers contact the victim by letter or telephone and claim they have bought a debt with their name on it from a reputable company or utility supplier.

They threaten court action if the fictitious bill or fine isn't paid quickly.

CATALOGUE

Scammers send out catalogues selling a variety of products including food, pills, potions, jewellery, clothes, beauty products and items for the home and garden.

They guarantee prizes to those who order but never send the promised prize. Instead sending more 'dazzling' promises to get more orders.

Catalogue scams often involve the victim receiving phone calls confirming the 'win' or being told to look out for 'important' letters arriving.

CLAIRVOYANT

Clairvoyant scammers have no idea who will read their letters but show false concern and pretend they're going to lots of trouble to give the reader good health, wealth and happiness.

They weave some very imaginative stories, including performing rituals or sensing danger. They often blackmail victims by telling them "bad luck will befall you if you don't pay up"



STOP AND ...

REMEMBER !

You can't win a competition or lottery without entering. If you're asked to pay an upfront fee for such a 'win' do not pay



CHECK !

If you purchase goods in response to a mail offer, make sure to review your bank or credit card statements

CAUTION !

Be wary of anyone asking you for your private information



THINK !

Why am I being asked to make upfront payments?

WHAT CAN HELP?

MAILING PREFERENCE SERVICE

A free service enabling UK customers to stop receiving unsolicited mail by having their home address removed from mailing lists. Actively supported by the Royal Mail, trade associations and the Information Commissioners Office.

- Call **020 7291 3310**
- Visit **www.mpsonline.org.uk**

ROYAL MAIL SCAM MAIL

If you think someone is receiving scam mail this can be reported to the Royal Mail.

- Write to Royal Mail at **Freepost Scam Mail**
- Call **03456 113 413**
- Email **scam.mail@royalmail.com**

ROYAL MAIL OPT OUT SERVICE

Opting out stops all unaddressed items being delivered by the Royal Mail. This means nobody at the address will receive unaddressed items.

- Write to **Royal Mail Customer Services, PO Box 740, Plymouth, PL9 7YB**
- Email **optout@royalmail.com** to be sent a form to sign and return