



Hundreds Fall Victim To Lottery Scams In Just Seven Months

What is lottery fraud?

Criminals will contact unsuspecting victims informing them they have won a lottery or prize draw. The victim is then informed that they will need to pay an advance fee in order to receive their winnings. In reality, the winnings are non-existent and it is an attempt to steal the victims money, personal or financial information.

Between April and October 2021, Action Fraud received 629 reports of lottery fraud, with 89 per cent of reports mentioning well-known prize draws. Impersonation of People's Postcode Lottery accounted for almost half (49 per cent) of all reports. Almost three quarters of victims (70 per cent) were aged over 50, with those aged over 65 accounting for 40 per cent of reports.

Fraudsters use gift cards as a form of payment as they can be easily redeemed and sold on. The criminals don't need the physical card to redeem the value as they ask the victims to share the serial code on the back of the card with them. In other instances, victims reported being asked for personal and financial information in order to obtain their alleged winnings. Some victims reported providing their bank details thinking they would be sent a small payment to verify the account. In reality, criminals will use these details to steal the victim's money.

How to protect yourself

Stop: Unsolicited offers of large sums of money in return for a small upfront payment should always raise a red flag. Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

Challenge: Could it be fake? Remember, you can't win a prize in a competition you didn't enter. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to

rush or panic you.

Protect: If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to [Action Fraud](https://actionfraud.police.uk) online at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

You can find further protection advice around lotteries and competition on the [Gambling Commission's website](#).

For more of the government's latest advice on how to stay secure online, visit the Cyber Aware website: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware>

Thanks for reading! If you found this information useful, please help us spread the word by forwarding this email to your friends.

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Action Fraud (Action Fraud, Administrator, National)