CYBER ALERT - Bank Impersonation Scams

One of the most common scams currently affecting people across the UK is the **Bank Impersonation Scam**, where criminals pretend to be from your bank's fraud department / security team, and convince you that your money is at risk.

The scam often starts with a phone call, text message or email claiming suspicious activity has been detected on your account. The fraudster may know personal information about you and may even make their call appear to come from your bank's genuine telephone number. You may then be told that your account has been compromised and that you need to move your money to a "safe account" or "secure account" to protect it.

This is a scam.

No genuine UK bank will ever ask you to transfer money to another account to keep it safe.

How to Protect Yourself

Stop and think before acting.

Never transfer money because of an unexpected phone call, text, or email.

If you receive such a phone call **HANG UP** and contact your bank using a trusted number from your bank card, statement, or the bank's official website. Alternatively call **159**, the secure banking verification service, to be safely connected to your bank.

Where possible, use a **different phone** to make the call, or wait several minutes after ending the original call, as fraudsters can sometimes keep the line open on some systems.

Be wary of pressure, urgency, or requests for secrecy.
Seek advice from a trusted friend or family member if you are at all unsure.

IF YOU MAKE THE PHONE CALL TO A THOROUGHLY TRUSTED AND VERIFIED PHONE NUMBER YOU ARE IN CONTROL

If you believe you've been a victim of Cybercrime or Fraud, report it to REPORT FRAUD:

UK's Home for Reporting Cyber Crime & Fraud - Report Fraud

0300 123 2040

Remember: There is no such thing as a "safe account". If someone asks you to move your money to one, it's a scam.

Please share this message, particularly with older relatives, friends and neighbours who may be targeted by fraudsters.

Reply Share Rate



Message Sent By
Mick Harrison
(Devon & Cornwall Police, Cyber Protect Officer, Devon & Cornwall)

Your Devon and Cornwall Community Messaging account...

My Local Area Message Preferences System Support Login Unsubscribe

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Information, advice and feedback

Information displayed in this section may not be directly related to the above message.

Who can see your data:

The organisations listed below are available "Information Providers". The ones that you currently share your data with and are willing to receive