

Welcome to the National Trading Standards Scam Marshal newsletter: February 2019

NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS

Scams Team



Total Scam Marshals across the UK: 524

SCAM MARSHAL WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE!

January saw the launch of our new **Scam Marshal website**.

On there, all Scam Marshal materials can be found, including previous newsletters, our coffee morning pack, the Pen Pal application form, the scam phone call log and lots more other useful materials.

You can also sign up as a Scam Marshal via the webpage, so if you know someone that you think would benefit from becoming a Scam Marshal, direct them to the website: www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk/ScamMarshals



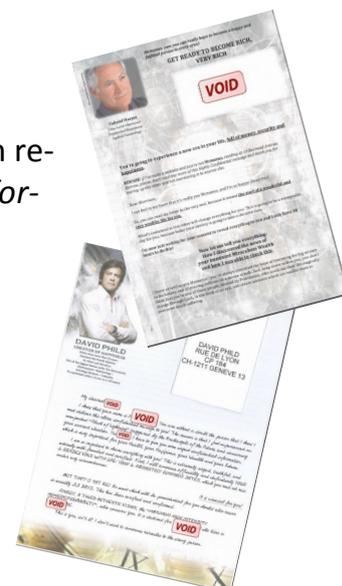
CLAIRVOYANT SCAMS

The team has received a growing number of clairvoyant scams which have been received by our Scam Marshals. This type of scam mail offers the recipient *great fortunes, good health and good luck*...in return for a 'small fee' (usually between £20 - £40).

The most frequent ones that we have recently received are from:

Eric Ezekiel, Walter B Honorus, Laurella, David Phild, Laurent Julien, Gabriel Harper and Laura Vivien.

Although they appear convincing, these companies are not real and the people responsible will never send the great fortunes they promise. We encourage you to share this knowledge with your family, friends & neighbours.



TV & RADIO STARS REQUIRED

We are looking to promote the Scam Marshal scheme on national television and radio and are therefore asking for any willing Scam Marshals to come forward to talk about their experiences with scams and how the Scam Marshal scheme has worked for them!

Last year we appeared on BBC's 'Rip off Britain' with our Scam Marshals Sigrid. Sigrid spoke about the role she plays as an active Scam Marshal, and how she raises awareness within her local community.*

If you would like to be considered for any media coverage then please get in touch;
Call 01323 464444, **Write** to us using the freepost address or
Email us at FriendsAgainstScams@surreycc.gov.uk

*(This footage can be viewed on the Friends Against Scams YouTube channel).



PENSION & INVESTMENT SCAMS

Throughout 2019, our newsletter will concentrate on a particular pension or investment scam each month.

The most common of these include:

- Binary option scams
- Carbon credit trading scams
- Cryptocurrency investment scams
- Early pension release
- Forex trading scams
- Get-rich-quick, Ponzi and pyramid schemes
- Graphene investment scams
- Land banking investment schemes
- Overseas property and crop scams
- Pension review scams
- Rare earth metal investment scams
- Restricted US share scams
- Share, bond and boiler room scams
- Unregulated investment scams

Binary Option Scam

How it works:

‘Binary options’ are a form of fixed-odds betting. Typically, this type of scam involves predicting whether an event will happen or not.

For example, ‘Will the price of a particular share or asset go up or not?’. Then the outcome will either be **yes** or **no**.

If the investor is correct, they ‘win’ and should see a return on their investment; if they’re wrong, they lose their full investment. However, scam firms may manipulate software to distort prices and pay-outs – they then suddenly close consumers’ trading accounts, and refuse to pay back their money.

Like many scams, binary option criminals often use social media, for example Facebook & Twitter to promote what they are offering, including links to fraudulent websites which are very well designed to appear to be professional and legitimate.

How to protect yourself:

- Be wary of adverts online and on social media promising high returns from binary options trading.
- Only deal with financial services firms that are authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority.
- Always be wary if you’re contacted out of the blue, pressured to invest quickly or promised returns that sound too good to be true.
- If you have any doubts about the legitimacy of a company call;
Citizens Advice Consumer Hotline on—**03454 040506**

Is there anything else you would like to see in this newsletter?
Please feel free to give us some feedback, just pop it into your
freepost envelope when you send in your scam mail.

For more information on the team and our initiatives please
visit our website:

www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk/ScamMarshals

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