

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

NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS

Scams Team



Total Scam Marshals across the UK: 600

EMAIL SCAMS

Action Fraud has set up a dedicated email address where you can forward any scam *emails* that you receive.

This may not reduce the amount of scam emails you receive but it helps in our fight to take a stand against scams.

To report Scam emails please go to: www.actionfraud.police.uk and select the 'report' button

ActionFraud
Report Fraud & Internet Crime
actionfraud.police.uk

GDS ADVANCED FEE FRAUD



There is a company called GDS that operate out of the Czech Republic who are currently targeting the UK with mailings.

The mail states that there is a large amount of money waiting to be released and sent to the person that they are writing to, all they need is cheque or cash for £30.00 sent to an address within the Czech Republic.

Action Service
DMOM PO BOX : 62
OLŠANSKÁ 9
130 00 PRAHA 3
CZECH REPUBLIC

The company will always ask the recipient to write out a cheque payable to 'GDS' however, the company name often changes (C.R.I.G, Mutual Payment Bank, Taylor & Kenneth Associates are just a few).

Please beware of this circulating scam and let others know that **this is a scam**.

No legitimate company will ask you for money to release any prize or fund.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We would love to promote the Scam Marshal scheme to a wider audience and as such would like real life stories of our Scam Marshals so that we can post it online and across our social media (Such as Twitter and Facebook)

If you can help then please send us a little bit about yourself, why you joined the teams Scam Marshal scheme and how it has helped you. (A supporting photo of you with your Scam Marshal certificate would be great but not vital).

If you would like to be part of our social media campaign please get in touch;

Call: 01323 464444, **Write** to us using the freepost address or

Email us at: FriendsAgainstScams@surreycc.gov.uk



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 - February
- **Carbon credit trading scams—March**
- 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

Carbon credit trading scams



How it works:

This type of scams 'selling point', is making the consumer feel as though they are involved in a scheme which helps to improve the environment. Most of the time this scam begins with people being called out of the blue however, contact can also be made by email, post or word of mouth.

This scam has different options for consumers to choose from. These include being offered Carbon Credit certificates, Voluntary Emission Reductions or the opportunity to invest directly into a 'green' scheme project which is said to generate carbon credits as a return on your investment.

The scam claims carbon credits are the new 'big thing' in commodity trading, that industries now have to off-set their emissions and that the government is focusing on greener developments however, this isn't the case. Investors have reported they can't sell or trade their carbon credits, and instead have lost all money they've invested.

How to protect yourself:

- Carbon credits are **not currently regulated** by the Financial Conduct Authority so it is best to stay away from this type of trading entirely.
- 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 already invested or fallen victim to a scam, criminals are highly likely to target you again or sell your details to others.
- The 'follow-up' scam may be completely separate companies and criminals to those who first targeted you.

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

