

Scam Marshal Newsletter

August 2023

Total Scam Marshals across the UK: 2,518

ADDRESS BOX



**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

Postal scams

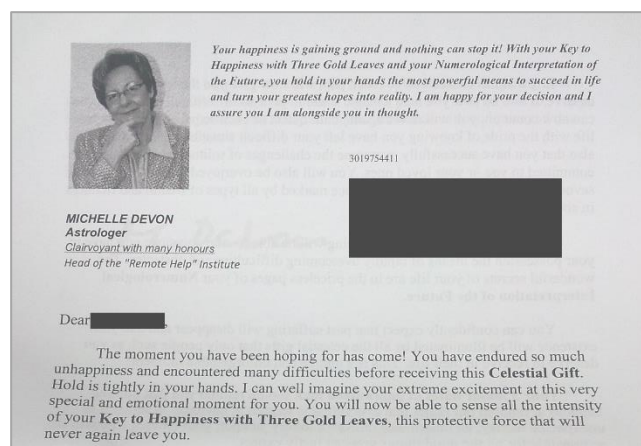
The Scam Marshal scheme was originally launched in 2015 under the name 'Mail Marshals' and was designed to raise awareness amongst those that were being targeted by postal scams. In 2018 the National Trading Standards Scams Team re-launched the Mail Marshal scheme to incorporate all types of fraud and scams and to open it up to anyone in the UK who has some experience of scams and would like to fight back against the criminals by helping to raise awareness in their local community, Scam Marshals was born.

A lot of Scam Marshals still send in the scam letters that they are receiving into the National Trading Standards Scams Teams Investigators for further analysis and to help the team work with enforcement agencies to help disrupt the criminal processes. The information the team receive from Scam Marshals is so important to see what is landing on people's door mats up and down the country.

The majority of the mail that is sent in falls into the Clairvoyant category, like the one in the picture below. These mailings play on people's beliefs. In powers beyond the realms of what is visible. The mailings are made to look personalised when in reality they are being sent to thousands of people in the country on a fortnightly basis. Here are a few things to look out for:

- The mailing will use your first name throughout.
- They will offer wealth and health in return for money.
- They will ask you to send cash to a return address (usually in Europe)

If you receive these types of mailings, be sure to send them into the Scams Team for investigation.



Return address: FREEPOST, NTSST, MAIL MARSHALS

Scam Marshals! When sending in your scam mail, please remember to keep the letter/s in their original envelope and write the date it was received as it can help with our investigations! Thank You!

Investment scams – Beware!

These scams involve criminals trying to convince you to join 'opportunities' for investments, promising huge profits.

Data from UK Finance reveals that £114 million was lost to investment scams where victims were deceived into sending money to criminals in 2022.

Investment scams typically fall into several categories. More complex schemes may include a criminal gradually gaining your trust and then pressuring you to hand over money.

Alternatively, you might be lured by an advertisement on social media with a 'recommendation' from a famous person. Lastly, some criminals take a random approach by sending unsolicited emails, texts, and WhatsApp messages, inviting you to participate in fake investments, often related to cryptocurrencies.

Investment scammers aim to extract as much money as possible from you. Once they believe you're hooked, they'll increase the pressure. This could involve presenting false statements that show your investment performing well, followed by claims that you must invest more before withdrawing.

After realizing the scam and cutting off contact, you must remain watchful against recovery scams. These involve 'companies' that promise to recoup losses for victims.

If you receive suspicious contact, you should report it to Action Fraud and if you think you have lost money to a scam you should report it to your bank as soon as possible.

Fake Facebook Ads

Criminals are making deceptive adverts on Facebook, offering phony travel cards to steal your personal and financial details.

If you do click, you'll land on a suspicious website that asks for your name, location, and answers to five questions. This site also has false 'great' reviews about the deal. Once you finish the survey, they'll prompt you to play a game to 'win' by picking a box. No matter which box you choose, it'll always be the winner.

Next, you'll be directed to a page demanding your name, address, and bank info to pay £3 for postage, if you fill this form in, you are handing over your details to the criminals. This info can be used to scam you now or later.

If you spot a suspicious advert on Facebook or any other social media platform, you should report it to that social media platform using the 'report' button

Action Fraud – 0300 123 2040 – www.actionfraud.police.uk

Police Scotland – 101 (from within Scotland) - www.scotland.police.uk

Citizens Advice – 0808 223 1133 – www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Citizens Advice Scotland - 0800 028 1456 - www.cas.org.uk

www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk