

# Essex Police Fraud Alert System

22

15th January 2021

## NEW YEAR, NEW JOB? BEWARE FAKE RECRUITMENT ADVERTS

As the impact of the pandemic starts to take its toll, many residents may find themselves having to look for a new job, and criminals are taking advantage of the high numbers of people now flooding the job market.



There are a four main types of recruitment scam including:

- **Advance-Fee Scams**—the 'recruiters' ask for upfront fees including security or police checks, immigration services for overseas jobs, and training programmes.
- **Phone Scams**—job seekers are asked to call a number and are kept on hold or subjected to a lengthy interview whilst unwitting paying a premium rate number
- **Bank Details**—fake recruiters ask for bank details claiming they need to register the victim on their payroll, but the information is used to steal money from the account
- **Other Crimes**—some fraudsters will manipulate jobseekers into committing crimes on their behalf whilst believing themselves to be working a legitimate job. For example, rather than 'trading' funds, jobseekers could actually be money laundering.

### WARNING SIGNS

- Poor spelling and grammar in the job advert, forms or documents
- Use of generic email addresses such as Yahoo or Hotmail instead of a corporate email address
- The 'employer' is adamant that they should make all the arrangements for you, including travel and accommodation

### I'm looking for a job, how can I protect myself?

The most obvious, yet effective way of protecting yourself from recruitment scams is simple: **Do you research.**

- Make sure you have researched the company thoroughly before sharing any personal details such as date of birth, passport, National Insurance Number, driving license or bank details.



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on 101  
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and  
do **even more** Online **at** [essex.police.uk](http://essex.police.uk)

