



CTSI warning over fake Post Office websites

THE Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) has uncovered evidence of a new Post Office scam that claims that the recipient's parcel delivery failed and returned to a Post Office depot.

The text contains a link to a fake website created to look exactly like an official Post Office platform.

The website asks the target to enter their postcode and personal details supposedly to identify their closest depot and reorganise the delivery.

The information requested includes the full name, address, date of birth and phone number. The information provided is sent directly to scammers who might use the information to commit many different kinds of identity fraud.

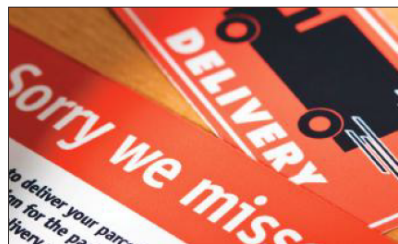
CTSI understands that someone who put their details into the bogus Post Office website lost £80,000 after fraudsters were able to pass their bank's security checks by using the personal information the victim provided on the phoney Post Office website form.

These Post Office scam messages come after a series of related delivery scams which use Royal Mail, DPD, Hermes and other delivery company branding. CTSI raised awareness of this scam during Scams Awareness

Fortnight, an annual public information campaign led by Citizens Advice.

CTSI Lead Officer, Katherine Hart, said: "This Post Office scam is far more insidious than a similar scam which involved Royal Mail.

"While the Royal Mail scam explicitly asks for a payment to reorganise a delivery, at no point does this happen in this Post Office version making the communication less suspect and potentially more likely to be successful.



"Scammers could use the information to gain access to bank accounts and other important personal accounts.

"With the pandemic leading to a significant rise in online shopping and deliveries, it is vital that the message about

the potential dangers of these scams are shared as far and as wide as possible."

To report scams, contact Action Fraud, or if in Scotland, contact Police Scotland.

For consumer advice, please call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133

The public is encouraged to join Friends Against Scams. This initiative aims to protect and prevent people from becoming scam victims by empowering them to stand against scams.

Warning over E-scooters

E-SCOOTER riders are being warned by police to know the law in a bid to reduce the number being illegally used.

Riding privately-owned e-scooters, outside of government-approved trials, is an offence on public land.

Essex Police said it wants to educate owners about current legislation but stressed the force will take enforcement action where there is evidence of anti-social behaviour or wider criminality.

The force has written to schools to raise awareness and said it must ensure that private e-scooter owners "do not pose a risk to the public or themselves due to their presence on public highways

Superintendent Sam Smith, who is leading the initiative, said the force wants to get the message to parents who are thinking of buying their child an e-scooter.

"We have written to schools recently and asked them to raise awareness with parents about the laws surrounding private e-scooters.

"Where there is persistent use of privately-owned e-scooters, or evidence of other offences, we will take appropriate enforcement action. This includes e-scooter seizure and riders being reported for driving offences."