



Mandate Fraud – Public Sector Alert

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MANDATE FRAUD – PUBLIC SECTOR ALERT

The information contained within this alert is based on information received by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. The purpose of this alert is to provide knowledge and prevention advice to help organisations protect themselves from fraud.

ALERT

Public Sector Mandate Fraud

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has noted an issue regarding fraudsters impersonating public sector bodies (i.e. the Fire Service, Police) and placing orders with businesses that have a previous/existing supply relationship with them. The fraud relies on the relationship between the business and the public body, as well as payment terms being agreed and the product being delivered before payment is required.

Method

The business is initially contacted by phone by the fraudster who expresses interest in placing a large purchase order. Communications via email continue between the fraudster and a representative of the victim business, consistent with previous dealings with the real public sector body. The consistency is such that the representative may have previously dealt with the real public body and is not suspicious of the correspondence, details or logos used.

When purchase terms have been agreed the order is delivered to an address which would appear appropriate, such as a Fire or Police Station, but from which the fraudsters can intercept the order i.e. the station has been closed.

PROTECTION / PREVENTION ADVICE

- Compare email addresses and other details to previous correspondence.
- Be aware if there has been a period of time between purchase orders. If in doubt request clarification from an alternatively sourced email address/phone number.
- Don't be afraid to question when you are dealing with a public body representative that you have not previously dealt with.
- Don't be afraid to question when the delivery address differs from the historical ones.

If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by this fraud or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

FEEDBACK

The NFIB needs feedback from our readers to evaluate the quality of our products and to inform our priorities. Please would you complete the following NFIB feedback survey through: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FeedbackSDU>. This should take you no more than 2 minutes to complete. If you have other feedback or additional information that you would prefer to provide by email please send to NFIBfeedback@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk.