

Scam Marshal Newsletter

March 2023

Total Scam Marshals across the UK: 2,414

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**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

Mark's and Spencer 'golden ticket' scam

Millions of Facebook users are being warned over an M&S scam which offers shoppers a 'golden ticket' to spend on their shopping.

The giveaway is nothing but a scam - causing tech experts and consumer experts to issue alerts and warnings to consumers nationwide.

The fake scam promises 500 lucky winners will receive £100 to spend at M&S stores in the UK - all by liking the post on social media and then sharing it. A representative for M&S confirmed that the posts are fake. Criminals often pretend to be supermarkets on Facebook offering giveaways, competitions and prizes if people 'like' and 'share' the post. Unfortunately, the prizes don't exist and the purpose of these scams is to gather people's personal information so they can be targeted with more scams in the future.

To report a potential fraud, please contact Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**.

Planning a holiday? Here are some top tips to avoid scams:

Remember to "TakeFive" before parting with your hard-earned cash, as some deals that are advertised online may not be all they seem.

Stay ahead of the criminals by following our tips:

- ✓ Read online reviews from reputable sources to check websites are genuine.
- ✓ Only use the secure payment method recommended by reputable online retailers.
- ✓ If possible, use a credit card when making purchases over £100 and up to £30,000 as you receive protection under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act.

If you have visited a website you think is suspicious you can report it to the National Cyber Security Centre using the 'report a suspicious website' form on their website.



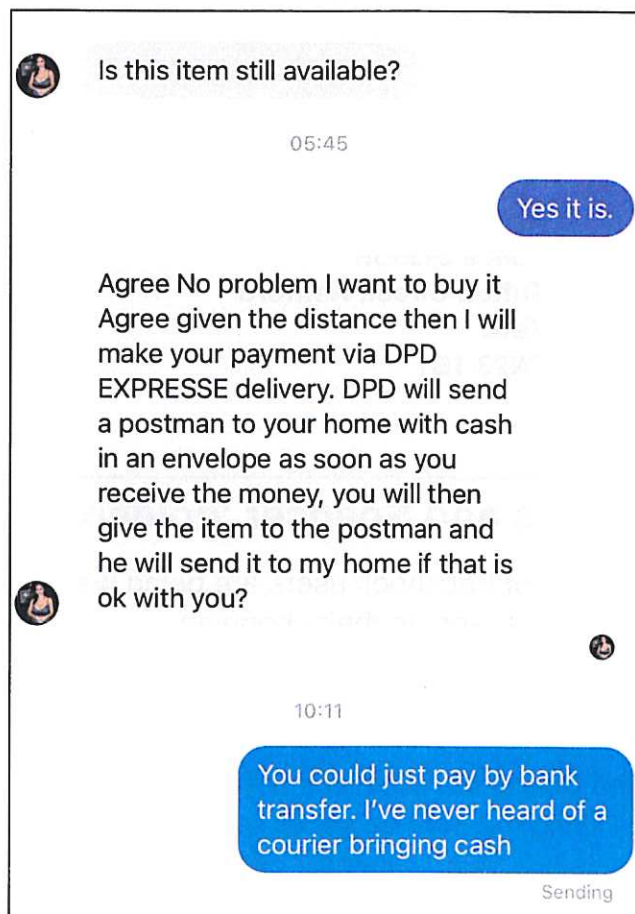
Return address: FREEPOST, NTSST, MAIL MARSHALS

Facebook Marketplace delivery scam

Free online auction and selling sites such as eBay, Vinted, Depop and Gumtree, amongst others, are a great way to make a bit of extra cash for these items. You can also advertise items for sale on Facebook Marketplace, but unlike most of the sites dedicated to this practice, both the buyer and seller are left alone to arrange payment and then the subsequent delivery or pickup.

Criminals have become wise to this and are using this to exploit the sellers by offering the opportunity of a quick sale at the asking price and offering to pick the item up via a courier service. In most cases, this is a scam! Once paid, the delivery never happens, the criminal profile will be uncontactable, and the person has lost the money, on top of not selling the item that they thought had sold.

Legitimate sellers on Facebook Marketplace will not request any additional payment beyond the cost of the item and shipping fees. If someone asks you to send money for unexpected charges, cancel the transaction immediately and report the fake profile to Facebook using the 'Report seller' process.



Friends Against Scams is a National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative

SCAM WARNING

To reduce the risk of becoming victim to a scam, Action Fraud suggests following the advice of the **Take Five to Stop Fraud Campaign**:

- **Stop:** Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **Challenge:** Could it be fake? It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **Protect:** If you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at **police.uk** or by calling **0300 123 2040**.

www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk