



Employment Fraud

What is Employment Fraud?

Have you ever been contacted out of the blue with a job offer that seems too good to be true? Employment fraud, also known as job scamming, is when a criminal pretends to be a recruiter or employer to trick you into giving them money or personal information. They'll advertise fake jobs, often promising incredibly high salaries for part-time hours or minimal effort.

How Employment Fraud Works □□♀□

Scammers typically use messages on social media, messaging apps like WhatsApp, or emails to contact you. They might ask you to fill out a questionnaire or provide personal details. The scam often escalates when they ask for an upfront payment, claiming it's for administrative fees, training, or equipment. **A genuine employer will never ask you for money to get a job.**

How to Protect Yourself from Job Scams

- **Be Wary of "Too Good to Be True" Offers:** If a job promises a high salary for very little work, it's a major red flag. Scammers use these promises to lure you in.
- **Check the Sender:** Be sceptical of unsolicited job offers sent via SMS or WhatsApp, especially from unknown numbers or unverified accounts. Genuine recruiters usually contact you through professional channels like LinkedIn or a company email.
- **Watch Out for Phishing:** Be cautious of requests for personal information, such as your bank details, passport, or driving licence, early in the application process. Legitimate employers only ask for this information much later, typically after a job offer is made.
- **Look for Errors:** Poor spelling and grammar in job ads, emails, or documents are common signs of a scam. A professional company would have these checked.
- **Don't Feel Rushed:** Scammers often try to create a false sense of urgency, saying things like, "This offer is only available for a short time!" Take your time to research the company and the role.
- **Verify the Company:** Do your own research. Check the company's official website, social media profiles, and contact details. Look for reviews or news about them.
- **Beware of Unprofessional Communication:** Be suspicious if the entire hiring process happens through messaging apps without a proper face-to-face or video interview.

Legitimate employers want to meet you! Also, be wary of emails from generic accounts like @gmail.com or @hotmail.com when they're supposed to be from a company.

What to Do If You've Been Scammed

If you believe you have been a victim of employment fraud, **act quickly**.

- **Contact your bank immediately.** Either call them direct or use the 159 hotline, which connects you directly to your bank's fraud prevention department. Note - most but not all telecom service providers are 'signed up' to the 159 service.
- **Report it to Action Fraud.** You can do this online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling **0300 123 2040**.

Find more information on staying safe from scams at the official government website at www.gov.uk/stop-think-fraud

