SCAM MAIL

Many victims of scam mail, also known as mass market fraud, are drawn in by the thrill of a guaranteed win. You will part with money in order to claim a prize that does not exist. Often, victims of this type of crime are elderly or vulnerable. They are targeted because they may live alone or have access to significant savings or pension funds.

There are numerous types of scam mail, some more obvious than others. Be wary of what you reply to, particularly if you are asked to send money or provide personal information.

The letters may claim you have won a prize draw; competition or lottery you have not even entered. The letters will be personally addressed to you, giving the illusion that you have been specially selected. Your name may appear numerous times within the letter, using words like 'guaranteed winner'.

They will request a fee to claim your prize. This fee may be advertised as a delivery or administration cost. Fraudsters may also try to obtain your personal details such as bank account or date of birth. Be wary of letters offering discounted goods or samples. Always check the small print and make sure you are not agreeing to a direct debit without realising.

It only takes a single response to scam mail, to be inundated with more. After this response your details will be added to a 'victims list' that other fraudsters have access to.



TYPES OF FRAUD

How to protect yourself

- ▲ You cannot win a competition or lottery you have not entered! If you are asked to pay an upfront fee for such a 'win' do not pay!
- ▲ If you purchase goods in response to a mail offer, make sure you review your bank or credit card statements.
- \triangle Any doubts, speak to a friend or relative.



REMEMBER

You cannot win a prize if you haven't entered.



Be wary of anyone asking you for your private information.



Why am I being asked to make upfront payments?

