



Weekly Fraud update from West Mercia police - Economic Crime Unit - 16/05/2023

IS IT TIME TO REVIEW YOUR PASSWORD SECURITY ?

Passwords are now part of everyday life whether at home or at work. They are the key factor in letting us do everything online whether it is online shopping or social media, online banking, dating, gaming and so many other areas we now take for granted.

World Password Day on 4th May reminded us about how we can improve our password habits, and our online security, by following the tips below and thus keeping your information, identity and finances protected.

- Devise passwords that are long (at least 12 characters) and complex, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numerals and symbols.
- Don't use family members', pets' or sports club names in your password as someone could guess these from your social media or other online activity.
- You could use three completely random words interspersed with numerals and symbols.
- Never use the same password for more than one account or website. If you do – and a cybercriminal finds out your login details – they can access your other accounts.
- Turn on two-factor authentication (2FA/MFA) for your important accounts.
- Don't store passwords on your computer or phone. Use a reputable online password manager that features two-factor authentication.

For further information, visit www.getsafeonline.org

SOURCE: Get Safe Online.

TV LICENCE FRAUD

TV Licence Scams are on the rise again with Action Fraud receiving over 3,400 reports of these scams in the 2 weeks up to early May.

The fake emails use authentic TV Licensing logos but the URL promoted is clearly fake. In addition they will contain spelling and grammatical errors.

There are currently 2 common styles of fake emails in circulation. The first one will tell you that TV licensing could not take your latest monthly payment and you need to set up a new Direct Debit.

The second fake email will say you are due a refund on your licence but due to invalid records you need to submit a request via the website link provided, which begins with the genuine *tvlicensing.co.uk* but is followed by *cs.update.your.licence'* followed by a series of random letters.

Genuine emails and letters from TV Licensing are personalised to include information such as your name, part of your postcode or your licence number.

Please feel free to share these messages with any vulnerable friends, relatives or neighbours.

Take Five To Stop Fraud

- **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 [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

For further information visit:

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

<https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>