

BOGUS DIANA MEMORIAL

Staffordshire Trading Standards are warning consumers about a scam email that is using the name of the late Diana, Princess of Wales to trick consumers out of their savings.

The spam campaign pretends that the recipient has won a charitable grant from a global humanitarian organisation set up to create a living memorial to the late Diana, Princess of Wales. The messages claim that recipients have been randomly selected to receive £2,598,000.00. The emails say that to receive the grant they must make contact with the organisation, who will reply with further instructions. However, the emails, which say they come from the "Diana Memorial Foundation", are not connected with the genuine Diana Memorial Fund.

This scam is a variant of the commonly-encountered "Letter from Nigeria" scams, also known as 419 Advanced Fee Fraud, that fool innocent users into believing that a large amount of money will be transferred into their bank account, but are really designed to steal information about the user's bank account or demand a "handling fee" for the money transfer.

Consumers are being advised that they should never reply to emails from unknown sources and to be wary when dealing with emails that want to give a free prize or ask you for personal information. If you have supplied your banking information to third parties in similar circumstances to these you should contact your account branch immediately. Remember if it looks too good to be true – it usually is, there is often a hidden cost and you could lose more than you bargained for.

All our alerts are available in a range of formats and languages, including large print. Please contact Cath Wohlers if this would be helpful to you, or to someone you know.

Email: cath.wohlers@staffordshire.gov.uk
Address: 14 Martin Street, Stafford, ST16 2LG