

# MasterCard Securecode Email Warning

Staffordshire Community Services are warning Internet users to be wary of a phishing email currently in circulation purporting to originate from MasterCard.

Unlike typical phishing emails that ask users to confirm details for security or maintenance purposes, the latest ones attempt to lure users to sign up to MasterCard's 'Securecode' service to receive increased security for their accounts, together with the promise of discounts on future card purchases.

A link contained within the email redirects recipients to a spoof MasterCard site where they are asked to supply confidential information including card expiration date, date of birth and the card's three digit CVV signature strip security code.

Officers are concerned that the offer of increased card security coupled with discounts of up to 16% on future card purchases will be enough to dupe many unsuspecting recipients.

As usual, officers advise all email users to remain vigilant and to delete such suspicious emails immediately. On no account should they click on any embedded web links or open any attachments. If users have any doubts about the validity of certain offers they should check directly with the website of the organisation that the email purports to originate from.

Officers advise Internet users to ensure that their PCs are running up-to-date antivirus, antispyware and firewall software, all of which are available free of charge for personal use, and that their operating system security patches are up to date. They also advise turning off any 'auto-preview' features in their email software, and encourage all email users to observe their tips for avoiding spam emails ([Avoiding Spam](#)).

If you have any concerns regarding the above please contact Consumer Direct on 0845 4040506.

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.  
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