

Money Laundering Email Warning

Staffordshire Community Services are warning Internet users to be wary of an email currently in circulation offering recipients the opportunity to participate in what appears to be a money-laundering operation.

A Staffordshire resident received an email purporting to come from career website Monster.com. The email offered the opportunity to earn £18,000 per year by receiving bank transfers and then making payments to one of their “regional affiliated departments”. The email went on to explain that the job involved physically visiting bank branches to withdraw and send money.

Enquiries have revealed that this activity is likely to amount to money laundering. It will likely involve illegal activity on the part of the participant and also put the security of their own bank funds at risk. More information may be found here: [Further Info](#). Officers are uncertain as to whether the resident was targeted as a consequence of data thefts from Monster.com in 2007 ([Further Info](#)) or as a consequence of a wider spam email campaign.

Either way, 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 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 is available free of charge for personal use. 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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