

POSTAL SCAM EMAIL

A number of Staffordshire Watchdogs have reported receiving a chain email which states:

'A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Postal Delivery Service) suggesting they were unable to deliver a parcel. The card asks you to contact them on a premium rate telephone number in order to arrange delivery. Upon connecting to a recorded message, you will automatically be billed £15 for the phone call'.

PhonepayPlus (formerly ICSTIS), the phone paid service regulator put out a statement on 9 October 2008 regarding the chain email, which states:

- The chain email refers to a service that was shut down by us on December 2005.
- We subsequently fined the company that was operating the service from Belize £10,000.
- The service is NO LONGER running and has NOT been running since December 2005.
- You do NOT need to contact us, or Royal Mail about this service as it has been stopped.
- If you receive a copy of the email warning you about the alleged scam please do not forward it to others. Instead, please forward them this statement from PhonepayPlus.

For more information about premium rate telephone lines, or if you have any further concerns, please contact PhonepayPlus direct on 0800 500 212 between the hours of 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday.

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

**Email: nicolaj.wilson@staffordshire.gov.uk
Address: 14 Martin Street, Stafford, ST16 2LG**