

Employment Scam

Reports have been received in Staffordshire from people who have responded to a job advertisement on a genuine recruitment website. The correspondence and employment contract received from the 'company' appeared legitimate, but the job description referred to him using his bank account and a wire transfer service to receive and transfer money on. This is known as a money mule scam.

A money mule is a person employed to transfer money or goods overseas either in person, via a courier service, or electronically using a wire transfer service such as MoneyGram or Western Union. The person recruited as a money mule is often unaware that the money or goods they are transferring are stolen.

Money mule scams often lead on from other types of fraud, with scammers attempting to dupe victims into laundering money on their behalf, by recruiting them through job advertisements shown in newspapers or on genuine recruitment websites, or by sending out spam emails and texts.

We advise consumers to:

- Remain vigilant against job offers or opportunities to earn 'easy' money
- To be cautious of job offers or opportunities from persons or companies based overseas as there may be difficulty in verifying whether such persons or companies are legitimate or not
- To be suspicious of job advertisements that contains grammatical or spelling errors or broken English
- To not provide bank account details to other persons unless they know and trust that person.

Money mules may be subject to criminal prosecution for their actions.

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All our alerts are available in a range of formats and languages, including large print. Please contact Community Development if this would be helpful to you, or to someone you know. Address: 14 Martin Street, Stafford, ST16 2LG. community.development@staffordshire.gov.uk

