

Press Release

08 November 2023

Over £2.5 million was lost to scams between April and August this year, according to the Jersey Fraud Prevention Forum (JFPF)

In total, there were 91 incidences of fraud, with elderly islanders aged over 70 making up a quarter of the victims.

The most lucrative schemes used by fraudsters were invoice and mandate scams as well as banking and WhatsApp impersonation scams, with four local businesses among the dozens of victims.

However, the true picture is likely to be even worse as the UK National Crime Agency estimates 86 per cent of fraud goes unreported.

These figures were compiled by the JFPF and publicised in its latest newsletter (circulated 6 November 2023) ahead of Fraud Prevention Week which starts on Sunday 12 November 2023.

In its latest publication, the JFPF again stresses the need for Islanders to stay vigilant, especially in the run-up to Christmas. They also urge anyone who thinks they may have been targeted by fraudsters or fallen victim to a scam and lost money, to report it either to one of their members or the States of Jersey Police on 612 612.

The newsletter offers a range of tips and useful guidance for islanders to protect themselves and avoid being scammed, especially when shopping online. This includes being mindful of how much information you share with people you don't know and being wary of offers which appear too good to be true. The JFPF also recommends you lookout for fraudsters posing as someone else, such as your bank, seeking to verify your identity or confirm a purchase or transaction.

To reinforce these messages, JFPF members will also be at Charing Cross on Wednesday 15 November between 11am and 3pm, both to raise awareness of the methods fraudsters use and to speak to anyone seeking advice on how to avoid being scammed.

Ends.

Notes to editors:

The JFPF was set up in 2016 by a group of local organisations to provide alerts and advice for islanders on how to protect themselves against fraudsters and scammers. The partner agencies are: States of Jersey Police, Jersey Financial Services Commission, Jersey Bankers Association, Jersey Consumer Council, Jersey Post, Trading Standards, Citizens Advice Bureau, the Jersey Honorary Police, Crimestoppers, Airtel Vodafone, JT, Sure, The Cyber Security Centre for Jersey, Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner,



Jersey Water, the Financial Intelligence Unit, Channel Islands Financial Ombudsman, and Royal Bank of Scotland.

If Islanders think they may have fallen victim to a scam, they are encouraged to contact the Police on 01534 612612.