

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gift Card Fraud

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The information contained within this alert is based on an increase in recent weeks of CEO fraud reports to Action Fraud involving gift cards. All types of businesses are being targeted including universities, charities and societies. This has resulted in financial losses for businesses that have fallen victim to this type of fraud.

A business is targeted by a fraudster who purports to be the CEO of the company or a similar senior position. The fraudster requests via email that they purchase some gift card vouchers for staff as a gift for Christmas. Once the vouchers have been purchased the fraudster requests copies of the cards and their codes allowing them to spend up to the value of the card.

Contact is made by email and usually from a spoofed or similar email address as the one the CEO or director would use.

What you need to do

- Ensure that you have robust processes in place to verify and corroborate all requests requiring a payment or transaction.
- Get in touch with the purported originator directly, using contact details you know to be correct, to confirm that the request you have received is legitimate.
- All employees should be aware of these procedures and encouraged to challenge requests they think may be suspicious.
- Sensitive information you post publicly, or dispose of incorrectly, can be used by fraudsters to perpetrate fraud against you. The more information they have about you, the more convincingly they can purport to be one of your legitimate employees. Always shred confidential documents before throwing them away.