

Coronavirus Fraud Prevention - Charity Scams

John Goddard:

Okay. So another example that seems to be a scam that's growing is a traditional scam. It's the charity scam, and these aren't anything new, but what I think we're seeing is that fraudsters are using COVID-19 as a tactic to make these stories more believable at the current time. So they're reaching out to people and convincing them that they can support the fight against the pandemic by giving a charitable donation through to them. Chris, are you seeing anything like that, and any comments?

Chris:

We are, unfortunately, and of course, this is one of the more, one has to say, despicable ways in which fraudsters will target us as a community. So as you say, they use a traditional technique, and of course with this one, it's preying on human nature. It's preying on the fact that there are many, many people out there who wish to help and support the overall fight against COVID. What we say here, of course, is that once again it is absolutely correct and right to respond to requests for charitable donations. But if you choose to do so, then our advice of course is always to seek the official route in order for that to happen. Do not respond to the adverts, but think more broadly about where you would like to donate to, conduct your own research and do it through official websites and channels.