

From mountain to sea

Trading Standards

Doorstep Crime, Scams & Safety

Bulletin 13

Doorstep Crime & Scams

NHS VACCINE SCAM

- Scammers continue to take advantage of people during the Covid 19 pandemic and are now resorting to issuing fake text messages to mobile phone users stating that they are eligible to apply for the Covid-19 vaccine. A link is included, which once clicked on, takes the recipient to a genuine looking NHS website where they are asked to input banking & personal information. The information is subsequently used to access the recipients bank accounts and steal money from them.

We would like to remind residents that the NHS will not ask you for payment or bank details if you are identified as someone eligible for vaccination. If you receive a text message like this, please ignore, block and delete it.

<https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/fp/news/local/covid-scam-warning-north-east-trading-standards-teams-issue-alert-over-fake-nhs-covid-19-vaccine-texts/>

- We have received reports of residents who have invested six figure sums of money with companies/ individuals believed to be operating investment scams. Residents should be wary investing money with any individual or company that contacts them out of the blue by email, text or telephone.

The Financial Conduct Authority operate a register at <https://register.fca.org.uk/s/> where checks can be made re: whether a company is regulated. If it is not registered, it may be a scammer you are engaging with.

Safety

- It is now 2021 and the transition period leading up to the UK's exit from the European Union has now concluded, but what does that mean for consumers and consumer goods? Does Brexit change consumer rights?



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Even though a lot of consumer rights are based on EU laws, most have been incorporated into UK law, so even though we have left the EU, your rights as a consumer remain the same, unless the UK decides to change them in the future but at the moment goods such as toys, PPE and electrical goods are subject to the same strict safety standards as before. During 2021, the 'CE' mark which is currently affixed to these goods to show they are compliant will be replaced by a new 'UKCA' mark for Great Britain and a 'UKNI' mark for Northern Ireland goods.

More information about how consumer rights might be affected by Brexit can be found below -

[How will Brexit affect my consumer rights? - Which?](#)

Contact

For urgent Trading Standards matters, contact Aberdeenshire Council's Trading Standards at 01467 537222. For non-urgent enquiries, please contact Consumer Advice Scotland at <https://www.consumeradvice.scot/> or on 0808 164 6000.

Contact Police Scotland on 999 if you need urgent assistance or 101 for non-urgent matters.

For more information about scams please visit Friends Against Scams at <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/>

Please direct any media queries to news@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or 01467 538222 during office hours.