

# An Garda Síochána

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Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath.



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## Report to Dun Laoghaire Central Residents Association Newsletter

The Central Statistics Office has reported that the number of criminal offences, recorded by An Garda Síochána, has fallen sharply in most crime categories, during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the number of crime incidents classified as fraud, deception and related offences increased by 13.7% in the year to Q1 2021. This trend is likely to continue with fraudsters finding new methods to target their victims.

I wish to highlight 3 types of frauds that are increasingly being reported at Garda Stations and offer some related crime prevention advice.

### 1. Payment Card Fraud

This involves the use of stolen or counterfeit payment cards to make direct purchases or cash withdrawals. It also includes the use of stolen card data to buy items over the phone/internet.

#### *Crime Prevention advice*

- Keep your card in a safe place at all times. Do not leave it lying around. Report it to your bank immediately if it is lost or stolen.

- Keep your PIN safe. Do not write it down. Do not keep it with your card and do not give it to anyone.
- Cover your PIN when making in-store purchase or using an ATM.
- Keep your card in sight when paying for goods or services.

## 2. **Email fraud.**

This type of fraud involves the criminal making contact by email. It can take a number of forms. The email may appear to be from a reputable company, however, when a person clicks on the email attachment or link within the email, malicious software is downloaded onto the PC or other device, allowing the criminal to track online activity and identify personal or financial information for fraudulent purposes. Sometimes the fraudster may pretend that you have won or inherited a large sum of money, in order to convince you to provide personal or banking details or to transfer money.

### ***Crime Prevention Advice –***

- Don't open unsolicited emails.
- Don't respond to any unsolicited email seeking personal or financial information.
- Never click on a link or attachment in an unsolicited email.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- If you believe the email is from a genuine source, verify this independently, independently means independent of the email sender.
- Independently verify any requests for information and never use the contact details supplied to you by the caller/texter. Independent means independent of the caller/texter.

### **3. Phone Fraud**

This involves criminals contacting you by phone or text, pretending to be your bank, credit card issuer, utility company or a computer company. The fraudster will try to trick you into giving personal or banking information. They may also convince you to make a money transfer to them or tell you that you have won a prize and need to send money to release it. Their intention is to use this information to commit fraud against you.

#### ***Crime Prevention Advice***

- Always say “NO” to unsolicited callers or texters seeking private information about you. Private information includes your name, address, date of birth, bank account numbers, passwords, PIN etc.
- Independently verify any requests for information and never use the contact details supplied to you by the caller/texter. Independent means independent of the caller/texter.
- The caller may already have some information about you so don't trust them because they use your name or other personal information.
- An Garda Síochána or your bank will never look for your banking PIN number or password or ask you to transfer money.

I have attached some tips for Safe on-line shopping.