



Fraud & Scam Awareness



Financial and Pension scams tend to target the most vulnerable. Individuals are often contacted out of the blue and offered attractive investments and pension reviews, they aim to persuade you to transfer your pension pot or savings. The <https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart/how-avoid-pension-scams> link offers advice on avoiding pension scams.

The Financial Conduct Authority has a tool to help identify scams and offers advice on what to do: <https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart>



What is a Financial / Pension Scam?

Pension scams can be difficult to spot as they are often carried out by individuals with financial knowledge and can use websites that look legitimate.

Scammers usually contact you out of the blue via phone, email, text or via an advertisement on-line. They will be very convincing and often say that they are authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

They may also seem to know a lot about you! Remember some personal details can be found via a standard internet search.

Their aim is to transfer your money or pension pot. They will try to convince you that it's the right thing to do and that you can make money from the transfer.

Pension scams are serious, and you could lose some or all of your pension savings

Protect yourself and report fraud and scams

- Do not click on links (**Pause, Think, Check**) first
- Never give out your personal details to unsolicited contact
- Keep your passwords up to date and change them if you think you have been compromised
- Keep your anti-virus software up to date
- Do not make pension transfers or changes to your pension without checking directly with your provider
- Do not respond to requests to transfer money from one bank to another, always check directly with your bank and report suspicious contact
- Action Fraud provides a day and night reporting tool <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>
- Age UK regularly update their website with information about the latest scams <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet/our-services/latest-scams/>

Ways that you could be contacted

Cyber-crime is carried out using computers or the internet, often via links, online shopping, Tech Support, free gifts, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- You receive a telephone call asking for emergency funds to be transferred to a family member
- You receive an email asking you to respond within a timescale.
- You have won a prize, click the link. Did you enter the competition?
- Telephone call, you can access your pension early, is this JSS?
- You are asked to click on a link in an unsolicited email

Take a minute, what are you being asked to do and what you are doing?

Have you checked everything you are being asked to do?

If it doesn't feel right: Pause, Think, Check.

Contact your Pension Provider.

Report the scam or fraud

If you receive communication about your JSS administered pension that you are not sure about, please email us: memberships@jss.ukri.org