

Banking Scam

To Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers

Banking Scam - u3as Please Take Immediate Action

In the last fortnight - two u3as have been scammed by phone calls purporting to be from their bank's Fraud Department. A number of other u3as have reported similar attempted scams.

What do they say?

The fraudsters have extensive knowledge of Committee names and the bank details. They say that a number of large, suspicious transactions are pending and due to take place from your account and that action must be taken – that they will talk you through – to prevent them. They may also encourage you to make a transfer of your funds to a “safe” account. They may quote a bank contact number which is genuine but they are masking the number they are actually calling from.

What should I do?

The first action you should take is **Hang Up!** Banks do not make calls of this

If you follow their instructions you are likely to lose all the u3a funds. The fraudsters are very convincing and well organised, they pressure you that time is of essence. They know exactly what to say to allay any misgivings you have and to distract you.

Should I call the bank?

If you try to call your bank to check if the call was genuine the fraudsters can intercept your call and convince you to continue. **If you do call your bank on a number you know to be genuine use a different phone or leave making the call for some time.**

Please share this

Please inform your Treasurer, and anyone involved in your u3as banking of this. The fraudsters have so far taken almost £50,000 from u3a and personal accounts. They are clearly targeting u3as, have been successful and will try again – your u3a could be next.

It is also advisable to take all personal details off your u3a website as this appears to be a source of their information. Don't give easy access to details instead use contact forms and redact any details in newsletters when they are put on your websites.

Support and Advice

For support, tips and advice please go to Barclays Digital Wings initiative. You do not have to bank with Barclays – they have information on scams. Follow

You can find them at this [Barclays Digital Wings address](#).

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