



Colin's Blog

Friday 19th January 2018

In response to numerous requests by some of my readers, in last week's blog, I put several points across relating to road users including the stupidity of pedestrians who risk their own and the lives of others, when they cross unlit or badly lit roads, whilst wearing dark clothing, something

which I consider to be kamikaze behaviour.

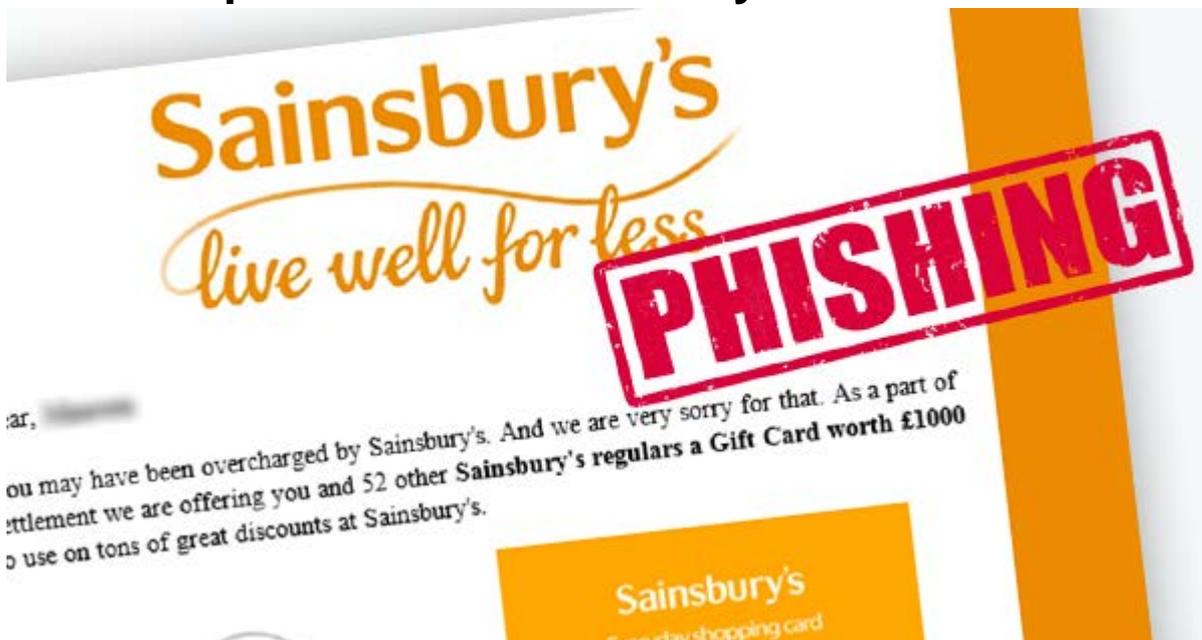


Having had a soapbox rant last week, my only other comment this week is about the 'animal behaviour', demonstrated by some drivers.

It is part of the behaviour patterns of dogs, that they have a tendency to sniff each other's rear ends. I am convinced that this behaviour is mimicked by some drivers, who, insist on driving so close to the vehicle in front, almost as if they are trying to sniff the exhaust pipe of the vehicle that they are following. In my personal view, drivers who do this unnecessarily, could, without a doubt, be called '*road bums!*'

Have you been framed? Well, apparently, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, QPM, the retired Met Commissioner, was recently presented with a framed portrait of himself, which was commissioned at a cost of £7,000 of tax payers money, leaving many of my friends in the Met, less than impressed!

Rise in reports of fake Sainsbury's refund email 16th January 2018



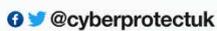
Fraudsters are sending out fake Sainsbury's gift vouchers via email, with 15 reports received from members of the public yesterday.

The email claims that the intended victim was overcharged on a recent visit to the supermarket and offers the gift card as compensation. However, when users click the link to get to the promised gift vouchers, they are led to a website that [could potentially defraud them](#).

Phishing email

Don't open attachments or click on the links within any unsolicited emails you receive. Criminals can spoof email addresses to make it appear as though the email was sent by a person or company you know.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, please report it to Action Fraud at Actionfraud.police.uk



Reports to Action Fraud have said the emails look genuine by using the victim's first name. They're signed by Mia Chadwick of Customer Services.

Fraudulent emails that pose as a high-street name usual have poor-quality spelling, grammar, graphic design or image quality. They may use odd 'spe11lings' or 'cApiTals' in the email subject to fool your spam filter.

When a fraudulent email such as this asks you to follow a link, the website or email address usually doesn't look right. Authentic website addresses are usually short and don't use irrelevant words or phrases.

<https://twitter.com/actionfrauduk>

If you receive an email offering Sainsbury's gift vouchers

- Be wary. Don't assume anyone who has sent you an email is from the company who they say they are from.
- Check the sender's email address. They may use an address that looks like it could be from the brand they're impersonating

UK victims defrauded by fraudsters via Western Union transfers may be eligible for refund

15th January 2018

Action Fraud is contacting around 22,000 UK victims who have made a report of fraud in which they stated that the method of transfer for payments involved a money transfer via Western Union.

Who can apply for a refund?

Action Fraud and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) were made aware of a US court ruling in respect of Western Union which may affect some victims in the UK that have previously reported to Action Fraud.

Action Fraud has confirmed that anybody in the UK who was a victim of fraud which involved making a wire transfer payment via Western Union between **1 January 2004** and **19 January 2017** may be eligible to recover some of the funds paid.

How to apply for a refund?

You can either apply online or by post until 12 February 2018.

- To apply online, fill in the Western Union remission claim form: -
- <https://kccsecure.com/westernunionremission/Claimant/UnKnownClaimForm>
- To apply by post, download the claims form and send it to: United States vs the Western Union Company, PO Box 404028, Louisville, KY 40233-4028.
- You do not need your Action Fraud number to make a claim.

For the latest information about the remission process:

- Check www.WesternUnionRemission.com for updates.
- Email: info@westernunionremission.com
- Or call: (844) 319-2124 (international call charges apply)

If you want to find more detail, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) has a detailed list of frequently asked questions. <https://www.justice.gov/>

Please do not contact Action Fraud, the NFIB or City of London Police as we cannot pursue a claim on your behalf.

How to protect yourself?

We believe that fraudsters may use this court settlement to commit fraud recovery fraud on victims who are not aware of all the facts.

Fraudsters are clever, so stay one step ahead by knowing what to look out for:

- Filing a claim is free, so don't pay anyone to file a claim on your behalf. No one associated with the claims process will call to ask for your bank account or credit card number.

- Watch out for copy-cat websites. Make sure you only apply through the official website and do not apply for a refund elsewhere.
- You don't have to pay to get your money back or use a claims firm.
- Action Fraud cannot claim money on your behalf.

Report fraud and cyber crime and receive a police crime reference number.

https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud

ActionFraud
 Report Fraud & Internet Crime
0300 123 2040



FLOWER POWER continued...

WHEN IS A BELL NOT A BELL?

Answer: When it's a Bluebell.

Cut and paste the link below into your web browser, and find out more about our Native wild Bluebells at: -

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/trees-woods-and-wildlife/plants-and-fungi/woodland-wildflowers/bluebell/>

Now here's a thought for raising funds in the community: -

Is your project or cause, an 'Endangered species ?' Does this ring any bells ?

Don't get the blues, plant Native English Bluebells!

Why not negotiate with a local garden centre, nursery or bulb grower and look for possible conservation sites, or woods.

Use the 'Conservation aspect,' to support your campaign, and once you have negotiated with a supplier, budget to spend no more than between 25p to 30p per bulb, then work out a 'suggested donation,' that will support you project.

Turn the planting ceremony into a celebration, for example:-

If you are fundraising for your local church, why not try for a 'Peel of bells' or ask a local group of handbell ringers to come along to the planting ceremony.

If there is a field or picnic area nearby, why not hold a 'Teddy Bears Picnic' or if near public footpaths, organise a nature trail / treasure hunt, but don't forget to dress for the weather!

Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 22 – 28 January 2018

<https://www.jostrust.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/cervical-cancer>

The theme for the **Cervical Cancer** Prevention **Week 2018** is “Reduce your risk” **Cervical cancer** can be prevented. With your help we can ensure every woman knows how they can reduce their risk of the disease and the steps they can take to look after their health.

That's it for this week, Keep Alert, Keep Secure, Keep Safe and have a good weekend!

Colin

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You can also read my blog at: <http://www.eppingforestnhw.org.uk/>

