

Millions of people now go online to find new relationships, but unfortunately among the genuine profiles are fake profiles set up by fraudsters, who play on emotions to ultimately steal money from you. These criminals will quickly become very interested in you, use various excuses as to why they can't meet in person, and then start asking for money to help with a problem, assuring you it will be paid back soon. Their real intention is to get as much money from you as they can.

If you have been the victim of a scam or fraud, please report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at www.actionfraud.police.uk Contact your bank immediately if you think you may have lost money.

## How to protect yourself

Keep all communications on the dating website or app that you are using.

Remember that a profile picture could be fake.

Do your own research on the person to confirm what they are telling you.

Don't send any money to someone you have not met in person, and be wary of giving money to someone you have recently started a relationship with.

Also be wary if anyone asks you to receive money on their behalf and transfer it on – this could be money laundering.



For more information about how our Anti-Crime Team can help you, please contact:

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