

Tenancy Deposit Scheme Alert

Protect Alert

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Reference 1902001

Action Fraud have received several reports where fraudsters are claiming to be landlords of properties offered for rent online. Prior to a viewing the suspect requests that the individuals pay a deposit and sometimes a month's rent upfront, claiming that this money will be put into the Tenancy Deposit Scheme, and is therefore protected under government legislation.

After the individual pays the money, the suspect sends a bogus email purporting to be from the Tenancy Deposit Scheme confirming they have received their deposit. However, this is not the case as the money was sent directly to an account associated with the suspect and the victim is left out of pocket and without the home they had thought to be putting a deposit on.

What you need to do

- Make attempts to confirm whether the individual advertising the property is a legitimate landlord, this can be done through Experian and credit agencies.
- Do not send deposit money for any property without viewing it first.
- Never send money to an account purporting to be the Tenancy Deposit Scheme. A tenancy deposit is to be paid by a tenant to an agent or landlord who is responsible for paying the funds to the Tenancy Deposit Scheme. The Tenancy Deposit Scheme will never ask a tenant for payment of a deposit into a specified account.