

FRAUD FLASH!

COVID-19 cyber fraudster

A fraudster who used fake digital messages to trick people into providing their bank details to receive a vaccine, was jailed after a successful investigation by the Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPU), a specialist police unit within the City of London and Metropolitan police.



Teige Gallagher (21, of North London) sent bulk text messages to members of the public, posing to be from a variety of commercial organisations, such as banks, as well as the NHS.



Gallagher used links to direct victims to imitation websites, where he could trick them into providing personal information and bank details, which he claimed were required to obtain a vaccine.



Specialist tools were used by Gallagher to send out bulk SMS messages to mobile phone numbers he had obtained from a data breach.



This type of fraud involved 'smishing' (where fraudsters obtain personal details of a victim by SMS text messages) and 'phishing' (a method of accessing valuable personal details, such as usernames and passwords).



Gallagher pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation and was sentenced to four years and three months' imprisonment.

Source: CPS, May 2021

Suspected scam texts can be reported to your mobile phone provider by forwarding to 7726. If you receive any suspicious personal emails, forward them to report@phishing.go.uk, the National Cyber Security Centre's reporting service. If you believe you've been a victim of this type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

LCFS: Kirsty Clarke Tel: 020 3201 8054
CFC: Jenny Simpson Tel: 077 8992 5243

