

OFT launches scams-awareness campaign **UK**

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has launched a campaign to highlight scams and help people to recognise them and avoid falling for them.

Scams – when people con you out of your money – are estimated to cost UK consumers £1 billion per year. There are hundreds of different types of scams, including fake lotteries, prize draws, incredible schemes to make money quickly, fake investment plans and work-from-home schemes. Indeed, the list goes on and on.

The OFT's key advice to protect yourself against scams is to stop and think about what you are being offered and, above all, to be sceptical. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

If you discover a scam or have been a victim of one, alert your family and friends and report it to the police, your local trading standards office or your local citizens advice bureau.

The OFT has produced a free leaflet – *How to recognise a scam*, which is enclosed in this edition of *Policy Update*. For more information, please call 0800 389 3158 or visit the OFT website at www.oft.gov.uk

The people behind the scams want to steal your money. Don't let them get away with it!

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