



Internet shopping and auction fraud



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- Simple yet effective steps can be taken to prevent you from becoming a victim of internet shopping and auction fraud – Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.
- Always check the description of an item very carefully before buying and ask the seller questions if there is anything that you are unsure of.
- Avoid buying items from people with little or no selling history and always check the feedback function on the site.
- Be vigilant around people offering you a deal below the current bid or reserve price, especially if they contact you directly.
- Be wary of phishing emails that look like they come from the online auction or payment site you're registered with, asking you to update your account details or re-enter them because your account has been suspended.
- Always double-check the URL in the web browser. A tactic often used by fraudsters is to change the address very slightly e.g. Instead of using 'ebay.com' a fraudster may use 'ebayz.com' to imitate the site.

Report any suspicious activity to the police on 101 - in an emergency dial 999