

Monthly Threat Update - MTU

Public– April 2022

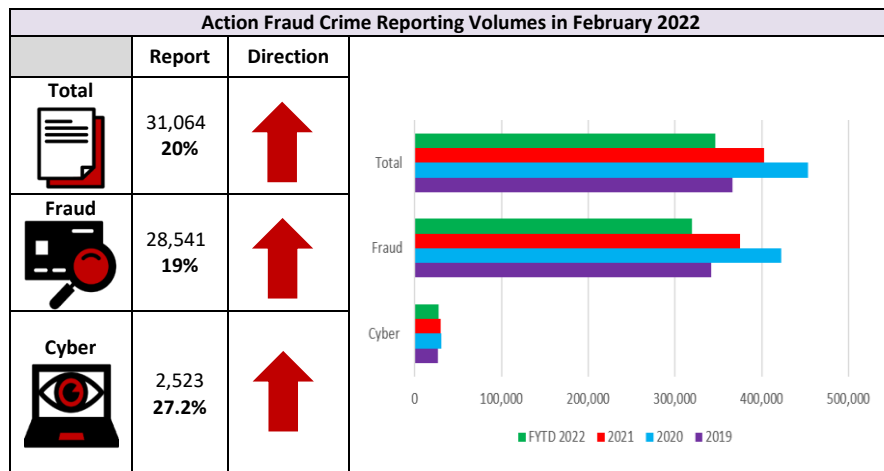
Welcome to the new Monthly Threat Update (MTU) for the City of London Police. This document provides an overview of Fraud and Cyber dependant crime trends using Action Fraud data for the period 1st – 31st March 2023.



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Crime Trends Summary



Explanation of Figures: The columns above on the left show the crime reports (excluding information reports) received for March 2023 and the percentage change from the previous month, broken down by all reports, fraud reports and cybercrime reports. The graph on the right-hand side shows the Action Fraud crime reports received for each financial year to date, broken down by all reports, fraud reports and cyber reports.

- **Total losses** for crime reports, which have been verified, have showed an increase in March, by 33%, from **£160 million** in February to **£212 million** this month. Verified losses, for March are 31% below the previous year average of £309 million.
- **Both crime and information reports received for fraud and cyber¹** have shown an increase in March from 39,889 to 46,530.

¹ Crime reporting relates to reports where there has been a loss, whereas information reports relate to cases where fraud could have occurred but did not.

- **Fraud, cyber-crime and information reporting** have risen by 17% from last months' (February) figures and are now 9% higher than the 2022 average.

Fraud Type	Percentile Shift (in comparison to the previous month)	Comments
Dating Fraud	25%	Reporting this month has spiked to the highest figures we have seen since May 2022. Following May's spike we saw a general trend of figures decreasing month on month, until a spike again in January 2023. Reports for March are at a high of 792 and is 16% previous year average.
Mandate Fraud	24%	Following a decrease last month, figures have begun to increase again, however they remain lower than the spike seen in January 2023. Overall reporting

		remains 5% below last year's average.
Courier Fraud	11%	A rise in this month figures, however, reporting level remain relatively low and continue to be 49% below previous year average.
Cheque, Plastic and Online Bank Accounts Fraud	11%	Another increase in reporting for this fraud type, however, figures are below those seen in January 2023.
Computer Virus and Malware Fraud	12%	Reports have risen from 269 (February) to 320 in March.
Computer Software Service Fraud	19%	March's figures are now at the highest they have been since May 2022, however, they remain significantly below April's 2022 spike.
Application Fraud	13%	Figures have risen this month, by 13%, and overall reporting is 16% above previous year average.
Hacking – Social Media and Email	30%	Reports have been slowly declining month on month, however, this month we have seen a

		spike with reports rising from 1,138 (February) to 1,475 in March.
Online Shopping and Auctions	21%	Last month saw a decrease in reports, however, this month we have seen an increase in reporting by 21%. This is now 15% above last year's average. Increase in scams and victims may be attributed to many people shopping around and looking to cash in on a "good deal", that subsequently turns out to be too good to be true. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis will continue to exasperate this shopping habit and as a result consumers become more vulnerable to falling victim to these types of scams.
Lottery Scams	109%	Lottery scam reporting has increase by 109%. However, actual figures remain low and therefore the jump is proportionate to this. 71

		reports received in March.
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Current Reporting Trends

March MO's

Tesco Voucher Scam: SERS (suspicious email reporting service) has received numerous reports of phishing emails advertising Tesco Vouchers. It has been pinpointed that there are two email addresses, which are being utilised for dissemination of phishing attempts, with two prevailing MO's. One email will capture the attention of the recipient by notifying them that it is their last chance to claim their prize of £100 Tesco gift cards. The email body is basic with multiple links that the potential victim is advised to follow in order to claim their prize. The alternative email being reported is one of increased sophistication, which has made further efforts to project legitimacy, including the use of the supermarket's logo and brand colours. The email also appears to be more personalised/tailored to its victim. £100 vouchers are also offered. Interestingly, in both cases the email subject advises £1,000 in vouchers, however, the body of the email only refers to £100 wins. The reason for the discrepancy, in both cases, remains unclear.²

² City of London Police, NFIB, Cyber Intelligence Unit

Protective Marking	PUBLIC
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	CoLP Strategic R&A
Purpose	Provide an overview of key themes affecting individuals and enterprise. The information contained within this report has been based upon content within Action Fraud reports and open source which have not been verified as true and accurate accounts.
Owner	CoLP
Author	Strategic R&A
Reviewed By	Senior Analyst Strategic R&A

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