

Monthly Threat Update - MTU

Public – November 2023

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 October 2023. Please note that all information and data included in the Crime Trends Summary and Current Reporting Trends was true as of **23rd November 2023**.

Contact: If anyone has any information they wish to put forward to be considered for this document, please contact the Strategic Research and Analysis team on: StrategicResearchandAnalysis@cityoflondon.police.uk






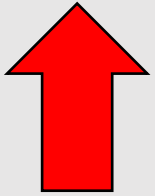
Contents:

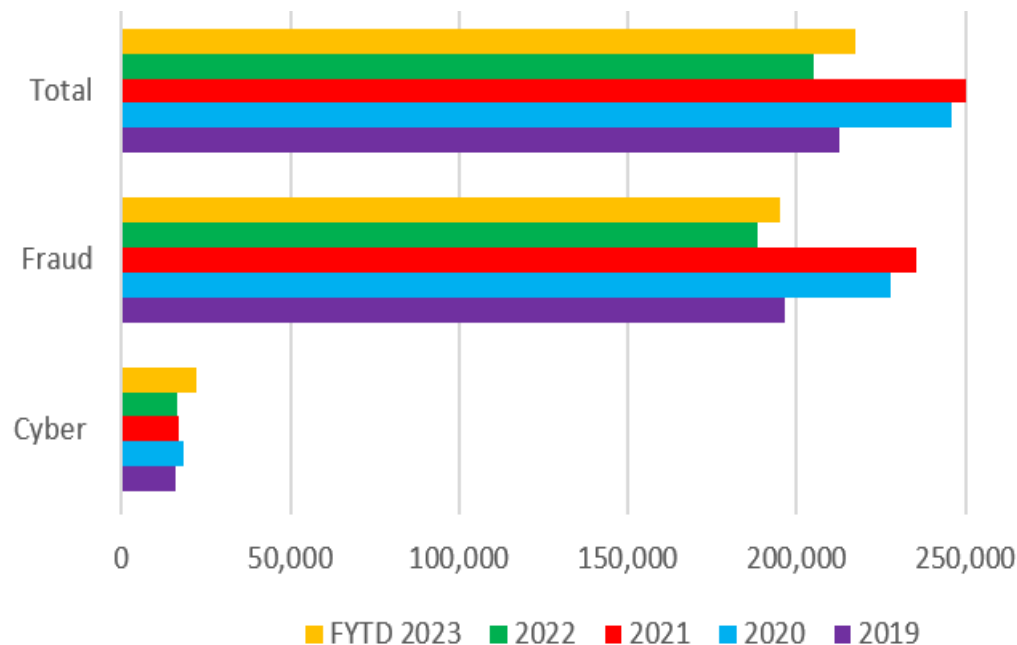
- [Crime Trends Summary](#)
- [Current Reporting Trends](#)
- [Horizon Scanning – Emerging Issues & Threats, Monitoring](#)
- [Distribution List](#)



Current Trends Summary

Action Fraud Crime Reporting Volumes in October 2023

	Report	Direction
 <p>Total</p>	<p>31,509</p> <p>5%</p>	
 <p>Fraud</p>	<p>27,839</p> <p>4%</p>	
 <p>Cyber</p>	<p>3,670</p> <p>13%</p>	



Total losses for crime reports, which have been verified, have shown an increase this month, by 4%, from **£152 million** in September to **£157 million** this month. Verified losses, for October, are 17% above the previous year average monthly loss of £135 million.

Both crime and information reports received for fraud and cyber have shown an increase, by 5%, in October, from 45,695 in September, to 47,911 this month.

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.

Explanation of Figures: The columns above on the left show the crime reports (excluding information reports) received for October 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.



Current Reporting Trends (Crime & Info)

RAG ratings are indicative of reporting trends for this month, in comparison to previous month figures. *Green boxes* illustrate a *decrease* in reports, *amber boxes* are indicative of *no change* and *red boxes* highlight an *increase*.

Fraud Type	RAG	Percentile Shift (in comparison to the previous month)	Comments
Romance Fraud		9%	Following a significant decrease last month, reporting volumes have begun to climb again, with this October reports showing a 9% increase. It is expected that this fraud type will continue to climb as we head into the winter months and scammers look to exploit those who may be feeling lonelier in the festive months.
Courier Fraud		39%	There has been an increase of 39% for courier fraud reporting in October. Reporting volumes remain relatively low and larger percentile shifts can be attributed to this. Reports this month rose from 93 in September, to 129 in October.
Cheque, Plastic and Online Bank Accounts Fraud		5%	This fraud type has previously shown a general monthly increase since April 2023, with the exception of September reporting. This month has followed general trends and shown another increase by 5%. Reports are relatively high, at 5,515.



Current Reporting Trends (Crime & Info) Cont.

RAG ratings are indicative of reporting trends for this month, in comparison to previous month figures. *Green boxes* illustrate a *decrease* in reports, *amber boxes* are indicative of *no change* and *red boxes* highlight an *increase*.

Fraud Type	RAG	Percentile Shift (in comparison to the previous month)	Comments
Hacking – Social Media and Email		16%	This month has shown an increase of 16% for this fraud type and Hacking - Social Media and Email remains relatively high in volume. Reports for October have reached over 2,400 and now sit 221% above the previous year average.
Other Financial Investment		5%	Other Financial Investment Fraud reporting has risen by 5% in October. This fraud type is now 70% higher than the previous year average.
Fraud by Abuse of Position of Trust		4%	There has been a continuing trend of decreases, month on month, for this fraud type, however, October has skewed this trend and shown an increase of 4%. Notably, due to the low reporting volume for this fraud type, the 4% increase is reflective of an increase of 13 reports when compared to the previous month.
Hacking – Personal		13%	Hacking – Personal has continued to increase, with a 13% rise this month. Reports are now at 662 and sit 135% the previous year average. Hacking continues to be a prevalent fraud type favoured by criminals and will be an area that is continually monitored.
Other Advance Fee Fraud		13%	Other Advance Fee Fraud has shown an increase from 3,139 in September, to 3,535 in October. This fraud type has shown a continuing trend of increases in recent months and is now 80% above the previous year average.



Emerging MOs of Interest

Prescription Phishing

A number of reports have been received for a scam linked to NHS prescriptions. Recipients of the phishing campaign are advised that by signing up to LloydsDirect they can easily manage their prescriptions and have them delivered for free. The email contains a link believed to be for the purposes of harvesting personal or financial information, and/or download harmful malware on to the victim's device. Scammers have attempted to add multiple perceived authenticity layers to this phishing tactic by including images and logos associated with LloydsDirect and the NHS. They have also included Trustpilot reviews. Through opensource investigation, free delivery from the legitimate LloydsDirect is a service that is offered to customers and therefore, more individuals may be susceptible to this MO. It is another scam designed to exploit the desires of many who are looking to save money where possible, during times of economic hardship.

City of London, NFIB, Cyber, Nov 2023



Cost-of-Living Crisis Update

18

Relevant reports

Decrease (42%)

**when compared to previous month figures.*



Reporting Breakdown

Relevance	Reporting
Vishing	7
Mail fraud	4
Other fraud	2
Door-to-door	2
Increased impact	2
Phishing	1
Total	18

There has been a significant decrease in cost-of-living related reporting in October: 42% decrease overall. Primarily, this decrease is a consequence of the substantial reduction in reports of frauds spoofing HMG cost-of-living support schemes.

SERS: An additional keyword search was completed on SERS (suspicious email reporting service).

Findings of significance included 12 reports linked to Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), 117 for “energy bill” and 0 for Ofgem. Reports for Ofgem linked SERs are expected to rise in light of recent announcements for energy bill increases.



Distribution List

Protective Marking	PUBLIC
FOIA Exemption	No
Suitable for Publication Scheme	No
Version	Final
Purpose	CoLP Strategic R&A 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

Copyright © City of London Police 2021 Disclaimer: While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information or material contained in this Alert, it is provided in good faith on the basis that the Commissioner, the City of London Police and its police officers and staff accept no responsibility for the veracity or accuracy of the information or material provided and accept no liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense of whatever kind arising directly or indirectly from or in connection with the use by any person, whomsoever, of any information or material herein. The quality of the information and material contained in this document is only as good as the information and materials supplied to the City of London Police. Should you or your police force hold information, which corroborates, enhances, or matches or contradicts or casts doubt upon any content published in this Alert, please contact the City of London Police. Any use of the information or other material contained in this document by you signifies agreement by you to these conditions.

