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New guide to help charities avoid COVID-19 fraud

A new guide to help stop charities from falling victim to COVID-related scams has been published today (16 December).

The Fraud Advisory Panel, Cancer Research UK, the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Charity Finance Group, the National Cyber Security Centre and Small Charities Coalition have come together to publish the new helpsheet to highlight the steps charities should take to protect themselves from falling victim to fraud.

A post-Covid economic downturn could bring 12 to 18 months of new challenges, fresh uncertainties and a heightened risk of fraud for charities, the group warns.

David Clarke, Chair of the Fraud Advisory Panel, said:

“Changes to working practices because of the pandemic have created new opportunities for fraudsters and cybercriminals to exploit. Even as circumstances change, the main way for charities to stay safe is to get the basics right. This helpsheet provides vital information on what to look out for and how to protect your charity.”

Alan Bryce, Head of Counter Fraud and Cybercrime at the Charity Commission for England and Wales, said:

“The problem of fraud against charities is not going away. If anything, the pandemic has made the threat even greater. This is why our helpsheet is a must read for anybody who wants to understand the fraud threats charities now face and more importantly, how to do something about them.”

The helpsheet is available [here](#).

ENDS

Notes to editors

For free resources and more prevention advice for charities visit: <http://bit.ly/Charityfraudhub> (until 31 December) and www.fraudadvisorypanel.org/charity-fraud

About Fraud Advisory Panel

Fraud Advisory Panel is the voice of the counter-fraud profession, committed to tackling fraud and financial crime. We aim to strengthen fraud resilience by championing best practice in fraud prevention, detection, reporting investigation, and prosecution. We do this through education, advice and research.

Our members come from a wide range of professions and sectors but are united by their determination to counter fraud. This diversity gives us knowledge, experience and authority.

Founded in 1998 by ICAEW, the Fraud Advisory Panel is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (charity number 1108863; company number 04327390). fraudadvisorypanel.org