

Audit & Standards committee meeting 24 November 2023

Agenda item 4:

International Fraud Awareness week 12 to 18 November 2023

Intranet article

Fraud awareness week – 12 to 18 November 2023



November 12-18, 2023

In accordance with the Counter Fraud Strategy, SPT is supporting International Fraud Awareness week. A week dedicated to fraud awareness, detection and prevention.

The week runs from 12 to 18 November 2023 and is part of a global effort to minimise the impact of fraud by promoting anti-fraud awareness and education to make us all more aware of how much information we put online and how much of this could be accessed by criminals.

Black Friday and Cyber Monday

With Black Friday and Cyber Monday weekend on 24 and 27 November 2023 fast approaching, you may have seen early bird deals advertised to entice us to buy on-line. Be mindful of your digital footprint and aware of fraud by using the following tips:

Tips to avoid falling victim to fraud

- **Stay safe online:** check the web address is legitimate and has not been altered by slight changes to a domain name – such as going from **.co.uk to .org**.
- **Do your research:** don't just rely on one review – do a thorough online search to ensure the company is credible. If a company is defrauding people, there is a good chance that consumers will post details of their experience, and warnings about the company.
- **Look for the logo:** don't click on the link, open a new window in browser and use a new URL (Uniform Resource Locator) to check validity of address.
- **Look for padlock and https:** the https prefix to the web address adds to the security of your data.
- **Pay safe:** wherever possible, pay by credit card or PayPal. You should avoid paying directly into a private individual's bank account.
- **Check the paperwork:** you should study receipts, invoices and terms and conditions, and be very wary of companies that don't provide any at all.
- **Use your instincts:** if a deal sounds too good to be true, **it probably is!**