

How do gift card scams work?



Gift card scammers often gain their victims' confidence by pretending to be someone else, such as a colleague, boss, a family member, or a romantic interest. The scammers then leverage this relationship to trick their victims to revealing the gift card number and PIN, which the scammers immediately redeem.

In a number of examples that we receive at OCSIA, the scammer pretends to be an Owner or Managing Director of a company and contacts the victim via WhatsApp in order to 'surprise' colleagues with a gift card treat.

How to avoid becoming a victim

If you are contacted by an unknown number (even if the contact purports to be from someone you know) you should remain highly sceptical.

If you have alternative contact details for the person who is supposedly in contact with you, use them first and confirm whether this new contact is legitimate. If you are in any doubt - then do not give any money over.

If you buy any gift cards ask yourself whether you should give over the code.



What to do if you've been part of a gift card scam

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