

Employment Fraud

The **Metropolitan Police Service's Operation Podium** has issued this advice on the risk of employment fraud.

- The hotel industry in London has reported a significant increase in people arriving at their venues who have been victims of employment fraud.
- The victims of these offences are typically foreign nationals who have responded to adverts placed on fraudulent websites, or fraudulent adverts placed on genuine advertising websites.
- The applicant is then informed that they have been successful in gaining employment but they are required to pay fees for travel costs, visa applications or other processing costs.
- These payments are typically requested to be sent via Money Transfer Agents including Western Union and Moneygram.
- In the build up to London 2012 it is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in employment fraud, using the staging of the Games to give greater credibility to fraudulent adverts.

How to identify recruitment fraud

- Fraudsters will often ask individuals to complete bogus recruitment documentation, such as application forms, terms and conditions of employment or visa forms. The name and logo of the purported employer is often featured on the documentation without their authority.
- There is an early request for personal information such as address, date of birth, CV and passport details.
- Candidates are requested to contact other companies/individuals such as lawyers, bank officials, travel agencies, courier companies or visa/immigration processing agencies.
- Email correspondence is often sent from (or to) free web-based email accounts such as Yahoo.com, Yahoo.co.uk, Gmail.com, Googlemail.com and Live.com.
- Fraudsters frequently use mobile or platform telephone numbers beginning with +44(0)70 instead of official company numbers.
- Fraudsters may even offer to pay a large percentage of the fees requested and ask the candidate to pay the remaining amount.
- There is an insistence on urgency.



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Employment Fraud

If you are seeking employment in the UK

Do not...

- Respond to unsolicited business propositions and/or offers of employment from people with whom you are unfamiliar.
- Disclose your personal or financial details to anyone you do not know.
- Send any money. Companies in the UK do not ask for money transfers or payments from applicants to secure a job or a visa to enter into the UK.
- Engage in further communication if you believe the communications may be fraudulent.



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