

Advance Fee Scam

An **advance-fee scam** (also known as a payment in advance fraud) is a form of fraud and is one of the most common types of confidence tricks. The scam typically involves promising the victim a significant share of a large sum of money, in return for a small upfront payment, which the fraudster claims will be used to obtain the large sum. If a victim makes the payment, the fraudster either invents a series of further fees for the victim to pay or simply disappears.

Contact with the potential victim can be *via* telephone, email or text messaging and usually is based on one of the following:

- An upfront fee to receive money or a prize/service or valuable goods
- A fee for a training programme or background check for a (non-existent) job
- A refundable deposit or administrative fee

Other signs of this type of scam include:

- A second request for a fee to secure higher value prize or goods
- Pressure to pay the requested fee quickly
- The domain name in the provided link does not match the alleged sender

Protecting yourself:

- Question upfront fees for something you have not ordered
- Do not believe you have won a competition or lottery you did not enter
- Double-check the sending email address
- Apply this vigilance to social media sites as well

For more Police advice on Advance Fee Fraud, tap [here](#).

