

Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | July 2024 | Issue 33



In this month's newsletter:

Article 1 – Sextortion

Article 2 – Gone phishing!

Introduction

Hello and welcome to July's edition of Safeguarding news. I always seem to be talking about the weather in my introduction. But has summer arrived? After what seemed a long period of dull and wet weather we have had some absolute scorchers. I know what you are going to expect now! We have reached summer, so Clive is going to trot out the dangers of the summer holidays. Well, I wouldn't be fulfilling my role without them, so here are a couple of links from the royal lifesaving society around water safety [Summer Water Safety | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK \)](#) and from the NHS on sun safety. [Sunscreen and sun safety - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) They contain some tips that you may find useful and following them will just make sure you will all have a better time.

Some of you may already have attended a music festival this season. Isle of Wight, Glastonbury, Trnsmt all passed by and early bird ticket announcements for next year probably all online. But there are many still to come. I am off to Kendal Calling at the start of August. Whether you are a festival newcomer or an experienced festival goer you may find information on this link useful [Festival First Timer | Festival Safe](#)

The two articles this edition are both focused on cyber security and cyber crime.

Have a great summer whatever you are doing.

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Article 1 – Sextortion

I came across an article about sextortion in June. Sextortion is said to be the fastest growing scam affecting teenagers globally and sadly has been directly linked to a number of suicides. 'Sextortion' refers to financially motivated sexual extortion. It is a type of online blackmail where criminals threaten to share sexual pictures, videos, or information about you. They may be trying to take money from you or forcing you to do something else you don't want to. The following article makes frankly alarming reading: [Sextortion warning: In 6 hours, my son was dead - BBC News](#)

I have pulled together some links that provide more information and useful advice on the subject from victim support [Sextortion - Victim Support](#) and the national cyber security centre [Sextortion emails: how to protect yourself - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)



Article 2 – Gone phishing

Writing this edition of safeguarding news in the aftermath of possibly one of the worlds biggest IT outages. The irony of the cause being errors in a software update for software designed to protect from cyber attacks cannot be overlooked! A report yesterday from sky news states that there are concerns over malicious websites already being created that are offering to correct IT issues that have been caused. There could also be an increase in phishing type emails purporting to be from CrowdStrike.



Phishing: these scams are a particular kind of mass-marketing fraud - they refer specifically to the use of fraudulent emails disguised as legitimate emails that ask or fish for personal or corporate information from users, for example, passwords or bank account details. Phishing attempts can be sent out in volume to a range of potential targets.

I don't know about your experience but even with all the security we have at Peak (and we have to comply with something called cyber essentials plus each year) we still get phishing emails coming through. A quick check on the email address of the sender can often confirm

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the nature of these emails. Even as I write this an email has just come in to Caroline. Apparently she has won a QLED TV from Asda. All she has to do is click the button to claim the reward. The email address it has come from is odd though? It is very long and seems to come from Italy, indeed scrolling down further and the email signature all seem to be in Italian! Oh well good job we don't need another TV. Whether it is a TV or a warning that your Microsoft outlook licence is about to expire **don't click the button**. A few simple checks or if in doubt check with your IT department.

The following links may be of interest to you for some background reading on cyber security:

[Cybercrime - prosecution guidance | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)

[Global IT outage: Warning over malicious websites offering to fix devices - as experts reveal likely cause of CrowdStrike issue | World News | Sky News](#)



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Samaritans	Phone: 116 123 Website: www.samaritans.org
MIND (Mental Health)	Phone: 0300 123 3393 Text: 86463 Website: www.mind.org.uk
NHS (Urgent medical conditions)	Phone: 111
Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)	Phone: 999
PREVENT (Suspicious activity, terrorism, radicalization)	Phone: 0800 789 321
RUN. HIDE. TELL. (Although terrorist attacks are very rare, we are not complacent about keeping you safe)	Website: www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe

Links from previous issues

Safety	Bartenders share the times customers used a 'safeword drink' to escape an unsafe situation. Someecards News 'Safe words' people can use in bars and clubs if they feel in danger or uncomfortable ITV News Central Advice - Cold Callers/Suspicious Activity - Cheshire Police Alert
Prevent	"Martyn's Law" - What you need to know ProtectUK
Men's Mental health	https://www.priorygroup.com/blog/40-of-men-wont-talk-to-anyone-about-their-mental-health
Scams	Take Five - To Stop Fraud To Stop Fraud (takefive-stopfraud.org.uk) Friends Against Scams - National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team initiative protecting and preventing people from becoming victims of scams
Sexual Health	https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/ https://www.unaids.org/en/2022-world-aids-day https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/
Stoptober/ Vaping	https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/ https://www.blf.org.uk/take-action/campaign-with-us/stoptober
Grief	www.cruse.org.uk Support and self-care for grief - Mind Get help with grief after bereavement or loss - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
Modern Slavery	Modern slavery and human trafficking - National Crime Agency The Issue — Human Trafficking Foundation
Disability Rights	Human Rights: Our Rights - Disability Justice Helplines Disability Rights UK
Dementia	https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/ https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/alzheimers-disease/ https://www.dementiauk.org/about-dementia/young-onset-dementia/

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