

Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

Guidance Note

E Crime



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

E-crime refers to a criminal activity where a computer or computer network is the source, tool, target or place of a crime. It also includes a wide range of other types of crimes such as fraud, theft, blackmail, forgery and embezzlement.

The Office for National Statistics estimated the significance of e-commerce for the UK economy, with an estimated value of online retail sales of £25 billion in 2011.

The growth of this business has opened additional channels for criminals to exploit. The total cost of e-crime to the retail sector was £205.4 million in 2011/12, with much of this cost coming from the amount having to be spent on increased security measures.

Ways to protect your business from e-criminals include:

- Consider your passwords – ensure that different passwords are used for different accounts, use strong passwords that are difficult for people to guess.

For Further Crime Prevention Advice:-

For Norfolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Architectural Liaison Officer (ALO)

For Suffolk dial 101 and ask to speak to your local Safer Neighbourhood Team

- Data security – use a hardware firewall, encrypt sensitive data, use passwords in accordance with a password policy, control the use of data transfer devices, employ a backup device to prevent permanent data loss, and formulate a ‘Disaster Recovery Plan’.
- Spam – Spam email can contain malicious codes that can cause huge damage to businesses. Consider using internet security software packages that include anti-spam and spyware solutions. For larger organisations, server based anti-spam solutions are available. Spam can also be limited by ensuring that staff don’t give out their email addresses over the internet unless necessary.
- Phishing – It is unlikely that a reputable company will have lost account information and if they had, they would never request information via email. Ensure your clients are aware that as a company, you would never request sensitive data via email. If you believe you have clicked on a bogus email, do not click on any links, instead, immediately restart your computer and scan for viruses.

If you believe you have been the victim of e-crime, contact police immediately on 101.

Action Fraud acts as a central point of contact for information fraud and financially motivated internet crime. If you’ve been scammed, ripped off or conned, report it to them immediately at www.actionfraud.police.uk

Not only will your report be investigated, but it will also allow a picture of fraudulent activity across the UK to be formulated, and trends to be identified.

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