

## Lender Loan Fraud

### What is lender loan fraud?

Lender loan fraud is when criminals convince prospective loan applicants into paying an upfront “fee” for a non-existent loan via adverts and other messages. Once the criminals have received payment, they cease contact with the victim.

### How to protect yourself from lender loan fraud:

- **Seek advice first:** Speak with a trusted friend or family members first if you're using a loan company you're unfamiliar with, or if the lender requires an up-front fee.
- **Scam messages:** Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details.
- **FCA register:** Use the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) register to check if the company is regulated by the FCA. If you deal with a firm (or individual) that isn't regulated, you may not be covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) if things go wrong and you lose your money.

### What to do if you've been a victim of lender loan fraud:

- **If you have made a payment:** Inform your bank as soon as possible, they can help you prevent any further losses. Monitor your bank statements regularly for any unusual activity.
- **Identity theft:** If you suspect your identity may have been stolen, you can check your credit rating quickly and easily online. You should do this every few months anyway, using a reputable service provider and follow up on any unexpected or suspicious results.

For more information on how to protect yourself from fraud and cyber crime, or to update your crime report, visit [actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk).