



Flight Ticket Fraud

February 2018

Copyright © City of London Police 2018

NFIB Disclaimer: While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information or material contained in this alert, it is provided in good faith on the basis that the Commissioner, the City of London Police and its police officers and staff accept no responsibility for the veracity or accuracy of the information or material provided and accept no liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense of whatever kind arising directly or indirectly from or in connection with the use by any person, whomsoever, of any information or material herein. The quality of the information and material contained in this document is only as good as the information and materials supplied to the City of London Police. Should you or your police force hold information, which corroborates, enhances or matches or contradicts or casts doubt upon any content published in this Alert, please contact the City of London Police NFIB by return.

Any use of the information or other material contained in this document by you signifies agreement by you to these conditions.



To help prevent your business to counter fraud and/or obtain details of our available website <http://academy.cityoflondon.police.uk>, or you can view our latest prospectus on <http://academy.cityoflondon.police.uk/images/prospectus>

ALERT CONTENT

The information contained within this alert is based on the results of research carried out by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) concerning incidents of fraud. One of the key objectives of sharing fraud data between the NFIB and partners is to prevent fraud.

Flight Ticket Fraud

Fraudsters are attempting to entice victims who are looking for cheap flights abroad.

Victims have reported booking tickets via websites or a “popular” ticket broker, only to discover that after payment via bank transfer or electronic wire transfer, the tickets/booking references received are counterfeit. In some cases, all communications between the company or broker and the victim have been severed.

Fraudsters are targeting individuals who are seeking to travel to African nations and the Middle East, particularly those wishing to travel in time for popular public and religious holidays.

PROTECTION / PREVENTION ADVICE

- Pay safe: Be cautious if you're asked to pay directly into a private individual's bank account. Paying by direct bank transfer is like paying by cash – the money is very difficult to trace and is not refundable. Wherever possible, pay by credit card or a debit card.
- Conduct research on any company you're considering purchasing tickets from; for example, are there any negative reviews or forum posts by previous customers online? Don't just rely on one review - do a thorough online search to check the company's credentials.
- Check any company website thoroughly; does it look professional? Are there any spelling mistakes or irregularities? There should be a valid landline phone number and a full postal address so that the company can be contacted. Avoid using the site if there is only a PO Box address and mobile phone number, as it could be difficult to get in touch after you buy tickets. PO Box addresses and mobile phone numbers are easy to change and difficult to trace.
- Be aware that purchasing tickets from a third party, particularly when initial contact has been made via a social media platform can be incredibly risky.
- If tickets to your intended destination appear cheaper than any other vendor, always consider this; if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!
- Look for the logo: Check whether the company is a member of a recognised trade body such as ABTA or ATOL. You can verify membership of ABTA online, at www.abta.com.
- If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by calling **0300 123 2040**, or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Handling Instructions

This report may be circulated in accordance with the protective security marking shown below and caveats included within the report. The information contained in this report is supplied by the City of London Police in confidence and may not be shared other than with the agreed readership/handling code without prior reference to the City of London Police. Onward disclosure without prior authority may be unlawful, for example, under the Data Protection Act 1998.

The cover sheets must not be detached from the report to which they refer.

Protected:	Not Protectively Marked
Suitable for Publication Scheme:	NO
Version:	V1.0
Storage File Location:	
Purpose:	Fraud Alert
Owner:	NFIB Management
Author:	104068p
Review By:	105433p