

Subject: Re: 4,944 Frauds in Merseyside last year - sign up to the Cifas Fraud Manifesto to help prevent fraud today.

From: John Coyne <john-coyne@zen.co.uk>

Date: 21/04/16 16:57

To: Ross Archer <Ross.Archer@cifas.org.uk>

Dear Ross,

Thank you for writing to me about your organisation Cifas and for raising the serious matter of fraud and its effect on victims, business and organisations.

Of the three "asks" you mention, I can readily agree seek to ensure that two are fulfilled if I am elected.

- The Police Force should ensure that all new Police Officers have more detailed information on fraud and scams in their initial police training; and
- The Police Force should use their cadet force to raise awareness of fraud and cyber crime to younger people.

The third "ask" is

- The Police and Crime Commissioner should make tackling fraud and cyber crime a priority area.

I would agree that fraud and cyber crime should be given adequate priority. Whether or not they are currently given sufficient priority is a question I would look into if elected. So far in this campaign I have only committed to one absolute change in priorities and that is to increase resources for road traffic law enforcement. The extent to which other priorities can also be raised may be constrained, but that remains to be seen.

Best regards,

John Coyne

Green Party candidate for Merseyside PCC

On 15/04/16 20:35, Ross Archer wrote:

Dear John,

Fraud is a serious issue for everyone in Merseyside. It affects Government, public institutions, charities, large businesses, SMEs and citizens alike. We can all be victims.

In Merseyside there were 4, 944 cases of fraud reported to Cifas last year. However, this is only a small part of the picture as much fraud goes unreported.

The figures above do not include:

- Fraud against individuals or small businesses.
- The hidden costs of victims being scared to go back on the internet or answer their door in fear of scammers.
- The time it can take for a person to regain control of their online identity.
- The reputational damage it can cause to businesses and charities.
- The cost to taxpayers, from fraud losses to the public purse.

Cifas aims to make the UK a safer place to do business, by enabling organisations in every sector to prevent fraud and protect the public through the sharing of confirmed fraud data.

Cifas is a not-for-profit organisation and has over 350 members spanning the public and private sectors. In 2015 alone, Cifas members prevented over £1 billion of avoidable fraud losses by using its databases. Cifas also offers Protective Registration for individuals whose identities are at risk of being used fraudulently, for instance if their personal details have been lost through a data breach or from identity documents being stolen.

Our Fraud Manifesto puts together some simple proposals that can help tackle fraud in your region, including:

- The Police and Crime Commissioner should make tackling fraud and cyber crime a priority area;
- The Police Force should ensure that all new Police Officers have more detailed information on fraud and scams in their initial police training;
- The Police Force should use their cadet force to raise awareness of fraud and cyber crime to younger people.

The full Cifas Fraud Manifesto can be found here: https://www.cifas.org.uk/pcc_manifesto_asks

We are also working with the Chartered Trading Standards Institute and asking candidates to sign up to be a #scambassador. If you sign up to being a #scambassador you will receive information about scams and frauds in your area and ideas on protecting your constituents from frauds. In return, we ask that you help raise the profile of fraud and financial scams in your region. You can find out more information about the #scambassador scheme at www.tradingstandards.uk/standagainstscams.

We very much hope you will be able to support these aims. You may wish to:

- Tweet your support using the message: I support the fight against fraud #fraudmanifesto;
- Send the attached press release (which includes fraud figures for your region) to your local press;
- Sign up to become a #scambassador (To sign up please visit - www.tradingstandards.uk/standagainstscams).

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions about fraud or financial crime more generally, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kindest Regards,

Ross Archer

Ross Archer
Public Affairs Manager

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