

# Be ScamSmart

**Investment scams are designed to look like genuine investments.**

*In association with the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators Registrars Group*

**Spot the warning signs.**

Have you been...

- contacted out of the blue
- promised tempting returns and told the investment is safe
- called repeatedly, or
- told the offer is only available for a limited time?

If so, you might have been contacted by fraudsters.

## How to avoid share fraud

- 1 Reject cold calls**  
If you've been cold called with an offer to buy or sell shares, chances are it's a high risk investment or a scam. You should treat the call with extreme caution. The safest thing to do is to hang up.
- 2 Check the firm on the FS register at [www.fca.org.uk/register](http://www.fca.org.uk/register)**  
The Financial Services Register is a public record of all the firms and individuals in the financial services industry that are regulated by the FCA.
- 3 Get impartial advice**  
Think about getting impartial financial advice before you hand over any money. Seek advice from someone unconnected to the firm that has approached you.

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**Remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!**

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## Report a scam

If you suspect that you have been approached by fraudsters please tell the FCA using the share fraud reporting form at **[www.fca.org.uk/scams](http://www.fca.org.uk/scams)**, where you can find out more about investment scams. You can also call the FCA Consumer Helpline on **0800 111 6768**.

If you have lost money to investment fraud, you should report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or online at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

Find out more at **[www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart](http://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart)**