

Friends Against Scams



**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

Overview of FAS



- An initiative run by the National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team
- Aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams
- Launched in 2016 to tackle the lack of scams awareness
- Over 900,000 people have gained increased awareness and become a Friend Against Scams

FAS Session



Becoming a Friend will equip somebody with more understanding about the different types of scams and how to report them.

The Friend Against Scams session can be taken in a number of ways:

- an eight minute video,
- a British Sign Language interpreted video,
- an interactive online session,
- or request an in-person session for groups.

Within Friends Against Scams



There are different layers within Friends Against Scams:

SCAMchampion

Scam Marshal

FAS Organisation

Businesses Against Scams

Young Friends

Practitioner e-learning

SCAMBassador

SCAMchampion



SCAMchampions are Friends Against Scams who want to do more.

They can host awareness sessions to recruit Friends and drive Friends Against Scams forward in their communities or workplace.

They complete an additional session and also gain access to a login to the resources area of the Friends Against Scams website.

Scam Marshal



A Scam Marshal is anyone who has been targeted by a scam and now wants to take a stand.

This can be by sharing their own experiences, helping others to report and recognise scams and sending any scam mail that they receive to the team.

Mail sent into the team can be utilised as evidence in future investigative and enforcement work.

FAS Organisations



Young Friends was designed to teach young people about scams.

It covers how scams can affect people's lives, different types of scams, how to protect themselves from being scammed and how to spot and help a scam victim.

The materials are suitable for school or youth group environments.

Businesses Against Scams



Businesses Against Scams was set up in April 2020 in light of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

Businesses that sign up will have access to a number of resources - fact sheets, posters, postcards and a 10 minute awareness session that covers government relief/tax rebate scams, invoice/mandate fraud, tech support scams and CEO fraud.

Young Friends



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The materials are suitable for school or youth group environments.

Practitioner e-learning



The Practitioner e-learning was designed to assist professionals and practitioners who will be interacting with victims of scams.

This includes but is not limited to; social workers, community nurses, volunteers and befrienders.

This e-learning goes through the scale of the problem, legislation to support victims, and an insight into the psychology behind the criminals' behaviour.

SCAMBassador



SCAMBassadors are MPs, celebrities, managers, senior officials or anyone who can use their influence to raise the profile of scams at a higher level.

A SCAMBassador can help to spread scams awareness messages to the wider community and act as a role model to others.

The role is flexible depending on how the person usually interacts with their community.



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