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# Lloyds Banking Group injects £5 million into ground-breaking fraud prevention scheme

- Lloyds Banking Group extends its pioneering fraud prevention action with a further £5 million in funding, bringing the total funding to £15 million since 2021
- This industry leading approach uses seized criminal funds to back fraud prevention programmes
- New funding will support initiatives by the UK Home Office, Age UK, We Fight Fraud, Stop Scams UK and the Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPCU)
- Liz Ziegler, Fraud Prevention Director at Lloyds, said "the only option is to tackle fraud head-on."
- Lord Hanson, Minister for Fraud, said "By joining forces with businesses like Lloyds, we're showing that we can stay one step ahead of scammers together."

Lloyds Banking Group has extended its pioneering fraud prevention scheme, reinforcing an unwavering commitment to protecting people from the harms of fraud.

The industry-first initiative, launched in 2021, will have seen £15 million of frozen criminal funds seized, then invested, in innovative UK fraud prevention and victim support projects.

### How are Lloyds using seized funds to fight fraud?

The scheme is a fraud-fighting initiative, funded through captured proceeds of crime - money seized from fraudsters by Lloyds' specialist teams.

Lloyds uses the money for vital initiatives, working with City of London Police (CoLP) and other organisations.

In support of the Government's fraud prevention efforts, the renewed funding will also contribute to UK Home Office work, delivered in partnership with the National Crime Agency and City of London Police, to further anti-fraud initiatives. This includes enhancing secure data sharing between the public and private sectors, which is essential for preventing scams, protecting consumers and disrupting criminal networks.

The scheme is unique in the banking sector, with Lloyds the only UK bank using frozen, criminal funds in this way.

**Lord Hanson, Minister for Fraud said** "Fraud is a crime that can affect anyone, at any time. That's why our Stop! Think Fraud campaign urges everyone to pause before sharing any personal information.

"But tackling fraud takes teamwork. By joining forces with businesses like Lloyds, we're showing that we can stay one step ahead of scammers together. Our expanded Fraud Strategy will go further by building stronger partnerships with industry to protect the public."



## Lloyds' fraud prevention scheme delivers genuine change

Funding given to the <u>Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit</u> (DCPCU), has secured 113 arrests and led to the seizure of a further £3 million in criminal assets, directly disrupting cyber criminals, drug trafficking and people trafficking.

Age UK has supported over 50,000 older people across the UK through one-to-one advice and awareness sessions, sharing practical support to avoid scams, building confidence to report fraud when it does happen and reducing the chance of repeat victimisation.

We Fight Fraud's outreach work has engaged over 1,000 education workers across 155 universities and colleges, providing training on the risks and warning signs of money mule recruitment – a scam that often targets younger people.

### Liz Ziegler, Fraud Prevention Director, Lloyds Banking Group said

"Fraud is everywhere – the only option is to tackle it head-on and the public and private sectors need to work together to do so. Our pioneering initiative gets to the heart of where fraud prevention works best, by collaborating to empower and inform people to stop and spot fraud before it happens, giving them the confidence to fight back.

"We look forward to continuing the work we're doing with existing partners, while sharpening our focus on secure data sharing between public and private sectors, aligned with the UK Home Office.

"Real change comes from collective intelligence - it's the only way to truly disrupt the extended criminal networks that perpetuate fraud and fund crime across the globe."

# Detective Superintendent Oliver Little, from the Lead Force Operations Room at the City of London Police, said

"Anyone can become impacted by fraud – that's why the efforts to combat it continues. The continued funding from Lloyds Banking Group is a welcome commitment to tackling fraud. The funded fraud prevention schemes demonstrate the existing vital work that happens through strong collaborative public and private partnerships, which most importantly helps protect the public from becoming victims of fraud."

### Paul Farmer, CEO of Age UK said

"The numbers are shocking. An average of four people aged 50+ in England and Wales are scammed every minute\*. This can have a devastating impact, causing not only financial harm but also longer-term damage to their physical and mental health."

"Thanks to the continued funding from Lloyds Banking Group, Age UK are able to empower older people in communities across the UK with education, awareness and practical support. This tried and tested



approach has already had a huge positive impact for many thousands of older people, helping them to spot scams and prevent initial or repeat victimisation."

**Detective Chief Inspector Paul Curtis, Dedicated Card & Payment Crime Unit:** "The DCPCU works tirelessly alongside the banking industry and international partners to keep the financial system safe. This was evident this year when we secured a conviction for a prolific criminal, who sold fraud technology worldwide, putting innocent people at risk of fraud and making hundreds of thousands of pounds in the process.

"While we are making great strides, we are not complacent and recognise that more can still be done in the fight against economic crime. We're delighted to continue this collaborative work with Lloyds Banking Group, to ensure the proceeds of fraud will be used to benefit victims and help further prevent harm to society."

### **Ends**

#### **Notes to Editors**

The information within this release is for the sole use of media professionals.

\*Age UK analysis of Telephone-Operated Crime Survey for England and Wales, 2020-21. Scaled up to the England and Wales 50+ population using Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates for 2022.