



British Embassy
Beirut

Serail Hill, Embassy Complex
Beirut Central District

www.gov.uk/world/lebanon

Last updated (24/04/2018)

INFORMATION NOTE:

Scams Alert: Job Offers & Lottery

Job scams:

It has come to our attention that a number of People have been cheated with job offers that do not exist. Stop and think before you part with your money, your passport and personal details or your current job.

Many scams may appear to come from the UK, but the criminals behind the scam are actually based in other countries.

It is likely to be a scam if:

- You receive an offer of a job for which you have not applied;
- You receive a job offer by email;
- You are asked to deposit money into a third party's bank account to apply for your UK visa;
- You are asked for your bank account details by email or phone;
- You are asked to get in touch with a named contact in a British Embassy/Consulate General or visa department (now called the UK Border Agency)
- You are offered cash in exchange for bank account details;

If you receive a scam email:

- Do not pay any money;
- Do not have any further contact with the originators of the email - these people are professional criminals and their aim is to exploit you and take your money and/or your personal details.

How to find out if a UK company is genuine:

- Some job scams can be very clever. Check the company's details very carefully;
- Genuine UK company websites may be provided, but the contact email addresses may be false. A genuine company name may be given, but the address will be that of a commercial service provider, and wrong.

For example:

Genuine website: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk.

False contact details: ukvisas@hotmail.co.uk

- Genuine UK companies are officially registered and can be checked by logging on to www.companieshouse.gov.uk;
- Phone the company in the UK if you are approached about a UK job, and ask detailed questions about the company and the job;
- Genuine UK companies do not usually give a mobile number for contact details; Request a landline number. If you can, compare the area dialling code with the given location of the company;
- UK company addresses can be checked by logging on to www.upmystreet.co.uk;
- Most genuine UK companies do not use a hotmail or yahoo type email account.

Job offers from the UK Government:

The UK Government, including UK Trade & Investment, does not send unsolicited emails with job offers - either direct or through agents. Government vacancies are advertised on official websites in the UK: www.careers-civilservice.gov.uk

Think about:

- The credibility of the job offer you have received
- Are the salary and benefits offered realistic? For example, for jobs in the hospitality sector, a monthly salary of £4,000 plus benefits of a free car, free health insurance, free accommodation and free flights for you and your family, plus generous leave entitlements etc are simply not credible

The recruitment procedure:

- Genuine UK companies normally have a rigorous recruitment procedure, including a face-to-face interview. They would not usually offer a job by email.
- How were you contacted by the UK company? For example, if you met an employee in an internet chat room who then made you a job offer, this is very likely to be a scam.

Lottery scams:

- All genuine UK lotteries are registered and have websites;
- If you did not buy a ticket, you cannot win a lottery;
- UK lotteries do not email winners or refer to amounts won;
- Further advice on lottery-related frauds is available from the Gambling Commission: visit www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Lottery fraud is an increasingly common offence, both in the United Kingdom and across the world. The crime works in the following way. An innocent individual, whose e-mail address has been obtained by a criminal network, will be contacted on that address and informed that they have won a high value prize, usually cash. The criminals will use the names and emblems of genuine lottery companies when sending their e-mails. To claim the prize, the victim is asked to do one of two things; either give their bank account details to the sender, or mail the sender a sum of money to cover taxes and administrative expenses. The criminals will then steal the victim's money and the victim will hear nothing further about their prize. Unfortunately, more and more people are falling victim to these crimes and many of these are being contacted by organised criminals using the United Kingdom national lottery company as a front. People are advised to be extremely cautious of any e-mails they receive claiming to be from the UK national lottery. The only way of entering the UK national lottery is by purchasing a ticket. The UK national lottery does not keep e-mail addresses of ticket purchasers and does not contact prize winners.

The British Embassy in Beirut is not able to pursue individual cases of lottery fraud or enter into prolonged communication regarding these crimes. For further information about these crimes and what to do if you become a victim, you are advised to visit the following links: www.met.police.uk/report/fraud/

Consular Section

British Embassy