



Credit Union

DON'T BE A MONEY MULE

A money mule is a person who transfers illegally obtained money between different payment accounts while earning a commission payment for doing so.



An Garda Síochána

Credit Union Money Muling Awareness Campaign in association with An Garda Síochána

How does it Work?

You give your bank details to a person(s) to allow them to lodge funds (money) into your account. You are then instructed to transfer these funds to another account, in most cases to an overseas account. You will then receive a commission payment (a nominal amount) for providing this service.

You are usually told how much funds will be lodged into your account in most cases they say €100/€150 euro but in reality the amount you receive is actually thousands of euro.

The source of these funds is illegal and come from cybercrime, payment and online fraud, drugs and human trafficking. While you are not involved in the crime that generated these funds, you are acting illegally by laundering this money (the proceeds of crime) in helping these criminals to move these funds easily around the world while they remain anonymous.

How are you Recruited?

You can be recruited online through social media, websites, job adverts, instant messaging apps and by email. You can also be recruited through people you know like family, friends, or friend of a friend who know someone who can't for whatever reason access their account and ask you for help so that they can transfer funds into your account.

Who is recruited?

Any one of us can be recruited but newcomers to Ireland, unemployed, students and people in economic distress are vulnerable to this crime. Men are also more likely to be targeted than women, as are those aged 18-34 years compared to people aged 55+.

MONEY MULING

**REMEMBER... MONEY MULING IS
100% TRACEABLE BACK TO YOU.**

What is the Offence?

The criminal offence facing money mules is a Terrorist Financing offence under the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010. Not only do you run the risk of a fine, a prison sentence of up to 14 years but you will be placed on a terrorism watchlist for life that will stay with you for life. Your account will be frozen, it will affect your credit rating which means you will have difficulty obtaining loans and mortgages in the future. It will affect any future travel plans as you will not be able to travel or obtain a visa to work/live overseas and it will impact your career opportunities as you will be vetted.

What are the Warning Signs?

- Money mule adverts or offers may copy a genuine company's website and have a similar web address to make the scam seem authentic.
- If done by email, the writing is often awkward and includes poor sentence structure with grammatical and spelling mistakes. The email address associated with the offer uses a web-based service (Gmail, Yahoo!, Windows Live Hotmail, etc.) instead of an organisation-based domain.
- These adverts will normally state that they are an overseas company seeking 'local/national representatives' or 'agents' to act on their behalf for a period of time, sometimes to avoid high transaction charges or local taxes.
- The position involves transferring money or goods.
- The specific job duties are not described.
- The position does not list education or experience requirements.
- All interactions and transactions will be done online. The offer promises significant earning potential for little effort.
- The nature of the work that the company will claim to be involved in can vary, but the specifics of the job being advertised invariably mean using your bank account to move money.

IF CONVICTED


- FINE AND/OR PRISON SENTENCE.
- YOU CANNOT TRAVEL OR WORK OVERSEAS.
- YOU ARE PLACED ON THE TERRORISM WATCH LIST FOR LIFE.
- IT AFFECTS YOUR CREDIT RATING AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

How to Protect Yourself

- Stop, take a step back, trust your instincts and ask yourself if it is too good to be true, then it probably is.
- NEVER, EVER give any one your Account (IBAN and BIC) or personal details unless you really know and trust them.
- Look for common warning signs and do your research before agreeing to participate.
- Be very cautious of unsolicited emails or approaches over social media promising opportunities to make money.
- Verify any company that makes you a job offer and check their contact details (address, landline phone number, email address and website) are correct and whether they are registered in your country.
- Be especially wary of job offers from people or companies overseas as it will be harder for you to find out if they are legitimate.

What to do?

- If you have received emails or messages of this type do not respond to them and do not click on any links they contain.
- If you have been approached, say No and prevent it happening to someone else by reporting it to your local Garda station.
- Inform your account provider (bank, credit union, post office, Revolut) and your local Garda station.
- If you believe you are participating in a money mule scheme, stop transferring money immediately and notify your bank and your local Garda station.



**NEVER, EVER GIVE YOUR
ACCOUNT OR PERSONAL
DETAILS UNLESS YOU
KNOW AND TRUST THE
PERSON(S).**