

creditsafe<sup>✓</sup>

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# Know who you're dealing with and protect your business from risk

Tips and insights to help you protect and grow your business.



# Know who you're dealing with and protect your business from risk

With corporate and employee fraud on the rise, it's vital for businesses to know that their customers, suppliers and staff are who they say they are, and are in a position to protect their business from this threat.

Don't get caught out, read our quick and easy tips on what you can do to prevent fraudulent activity and the negative impact this could have on your company.

Remember no one wants to buy from a company they don't trust.

## Understand your company's specific fraud risks

Do you employ casual workers or have seasonal staff? Alternatively, are you an organisation that has a high staff turnover? One of the biggest risks of fraud within a business comes from employees, so be sure to run checks on new staff before hiring them. It's also a good idea to carry out a thorough audit of your company's specific weaknesses, such as fire walls and security software. This will allow you to create and implement an effective internal fraud prevention process to reduce any risks.

## Investigate any credit refusal

If you use company credit reports to monitor your own credit rating and are aware of your level of creditworthiness, a credit refusal can set you back. However, it may not be anything to do with your business directly; instead it could mean that your rating has been damaged by fraud. If this happens a Credit Reference Agency (CRA) will be able to review the information and advise on next steps.

## Check your bank statements regularly

Fraudulent individuals will start by taking small, seemingly random amounts of money from your account e.g. £17.64 and if these go unnoticed, they will then start to ramp up their withdrawal activity and take larger amounts of money. By monitoring your statements, whether online or in paper form, it means the fraud could be discovered sooner and a resolution delivered swiftly.

## Invest in quality trace and identity products

These products will enable you to verify both the residency and identity of new and existing customers, as well as employees. These systems use the electoral roll, date of birth files and GRO indexes, which makes the verification process quick and efficient. In addition, they give you the peace of mind knowing you are making informed business decisions.

## Monitor your own company credit report

In today's economic climate, consumers are savvy to checking their personal credit reports and businesses need to follow suit. A change in aspects of your company credit report for example, financials, directorships or group structure could signify fraud if you have not filed these changes yourself.

## How consumer credit reports can help

If you offer consumers credit you need firstly to be confident that the person you are dealing with is who they say they are, but also that they have a good credit record. With a consumer's permission you will be able to access their credit report. Use this not only to check their name and address, but also information on whether that individual can fulfil their credit commitments.

## Undertake essential customer due diligence

If your business has to comply with anti-money laundering (AML) regulations, due diligence is a vital part of the process and ensures an accurate identification of the customer. As electronic identity verification (e-ID) has replaced the offline methods used to conduct ID checks, it is now cheaper, more secure and less time consuming than ever before.

Knowing who you're dealing with has never been more important in the fight to reduce the risk of fraud being faced by British businesses, especially as identity fraud is now the fastest growing financial crime in the UK. Having the right processes in place can help this, as well as working to protect your corporate image and increased confidence in your brand.

If you would like to know who you're dealing with call [02920 886 500](tel:02920886500) or visit [www.creditsafe.com](http://www.creditsafe.com)