

POSTAL NEWS

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- 1. East Riding residents warned over postal scams. Feb 22, 2011.**
- 2. Corruption: Singapore postal officer demanded bribes. Feb 21, 2011.**

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1. East Riding residents warned over postal scams

Scamnesty poster

The "Scamnesty" campaign encourages pensioners to bin junk mail

A local charity is warning elderly people to beware of junk mail scams.

Age UK East Riding said more and more people are falling for letters offering fortunes in return for sending money.

The charity has launched a campaign to highlight the issue, providing "Scamnesty" dustbins across the region, where people can dump their unwanted junk mail.

Mark Rounding, chief officer of Age UK East Riding, said the criminals often deliberately target the elderly:

"Obviously elderly people are the most vulnerable, especially elderly people living in rural isolated communities in the East Riding. Be a good neighbour and make them aware that scams do exist. If something is too good to be true, it probably is, and just bin it."

One local who fell victim to the fraudsters was 71-year-old Ray Kaye. Mr Kaye, who lives in Aldbrough, lost £4000 over the years replying to junk mail.

He said he only realised he was being conned after a neighbour noticed the large amount of junk mail he was receiving:

"All the years I have been doing it never crossed my mind it was a scam. I were believing that it was genuine because the documentation was all good and well laid out. And I believed it."

Once Mr Kaye responded to the initial letter he found he was inundated with similar post from around the world. He said at one point he was receiving 40 or 50 letters a week.

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2. Corruption: Singapore postal officer demanded bribes

Business Crime

Monday 21 February 2011

PHANG Soo Chyi is now a taxi driver in Singapore. But he used to be a manager with Singapore Post's courier business Sameday Islandwide Operations where he was supervised subcontractors with the power to penalise or reward companies for failing to meet, or exceeding, the required service standards.

PHANG's functions included the assessment and payment of bonuses for excellent service.

Several companies were told that their bonuses were in jeopardy unless they made loans to Phang which he did not repay. One of the companies reported his actions to the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau.

The "loans" added up to a little over SGD11,000 and, incredibly, all but SGD1,000 has been recovered by the Bureau.

PHANG pleaded guilty to four charges with a further four taken into consideration (that is they are regarded as cleared up in the police records but no conviction is recorded) and fined SGD20,000.

Although PHANG worked for a subsidiary of the state-owned Singapore Post, it was argued that he was operating in the private sector and therefore a jail sentence was not appropriate.

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