

# Police advice for online shoppers



Police are urging the public to stay safe online when shopping for gifts over the festive season.

Today is believed to be the busiest day for shopping on the Internet, with thousands of people purchasing goods to be delivered in time for Christmas.

With that in mind, officers are keen to ensure that all cyber shoppers do not become easy targets for fraudsters.

Anyone buying products online is urged to use only reputable or trusted sites and if you are unsure about the authenticity of anything being offered, then do not attempt to purchase it.

In addition, people are again advised to be wary of the ongoing banking scam known as 'vishing'.

Inspector Emma Croft said: "In addition to the busy crowds we are beginning to see in Edinburgh's city centre, many people will also be surfing the web for the best bargains when buying their Christmas gifts.

"It is therefore essential that the public do all they can to stay safe from those who would look to secure your personal details for criminal profit.

"When purchasing items, use only retail sites that you have previously dealt with or who are nationally recognised as authentic sellers. Never give out any bank details or any other personal information if you are not entirely certain that the site is genuine.

"If you have any concerns about a site then report the matter

to police or the Action Fraud organisation on

“We are also keen to ensure that the hard-earned savings of the public do not become an easy target for criminals who may attempt to extort money using the vishing tactic.

“Therefore, it is important that our communities recognise neither the police, nor banks, will cold-call an account holder and ask for personal details, or for money to be transferred elsewhere.

“If you receive a call like this, do not comply. Hang up and ensure the line has been cleared before contacting police.”