

## Be Aware of Spoof Emails Claiming 'Buyer Protection'

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### Message sent by

Action Fraud (Action Fraud, Administrator, National)

Online shopping websites are being utilised by fraudsters to advertise vehicles for sale which do not exist. After agreeing to purchase the vehicle via email with the fraudsters, buyers then receive emails purporting to be from Amazon Payments and/or Amazon Flexible Payment Service stating that their money will be held in an 'escrow account' (a bank account held by a third party, used as a temporary holding account during a transaction between two parties- for a 7 day 'cooling off' period). Once happy with the purchase the email indicates the money will be released to the seller, therefore offering 'buyer protection'. In reality these emails are fraudulent and do not come from Amazon. The bank accounts are controlled by fraudsters.

### Protect yourself

- Remember that Amazon does not provide an escrow account to purchase items.
- Meet the seller 'face to face' and view the vehicle before parting with any money.
- Be vigilant of emails that purport to be from genuine companies and check the 'domain' name of the email address for any inconsistencies.
- Check feedback online by searching the associated phone numbers or email addresses of the seller.
- If the vehicle is below market value consider whether this is an opportunity too good to be true!
- If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by this fraud or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

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