

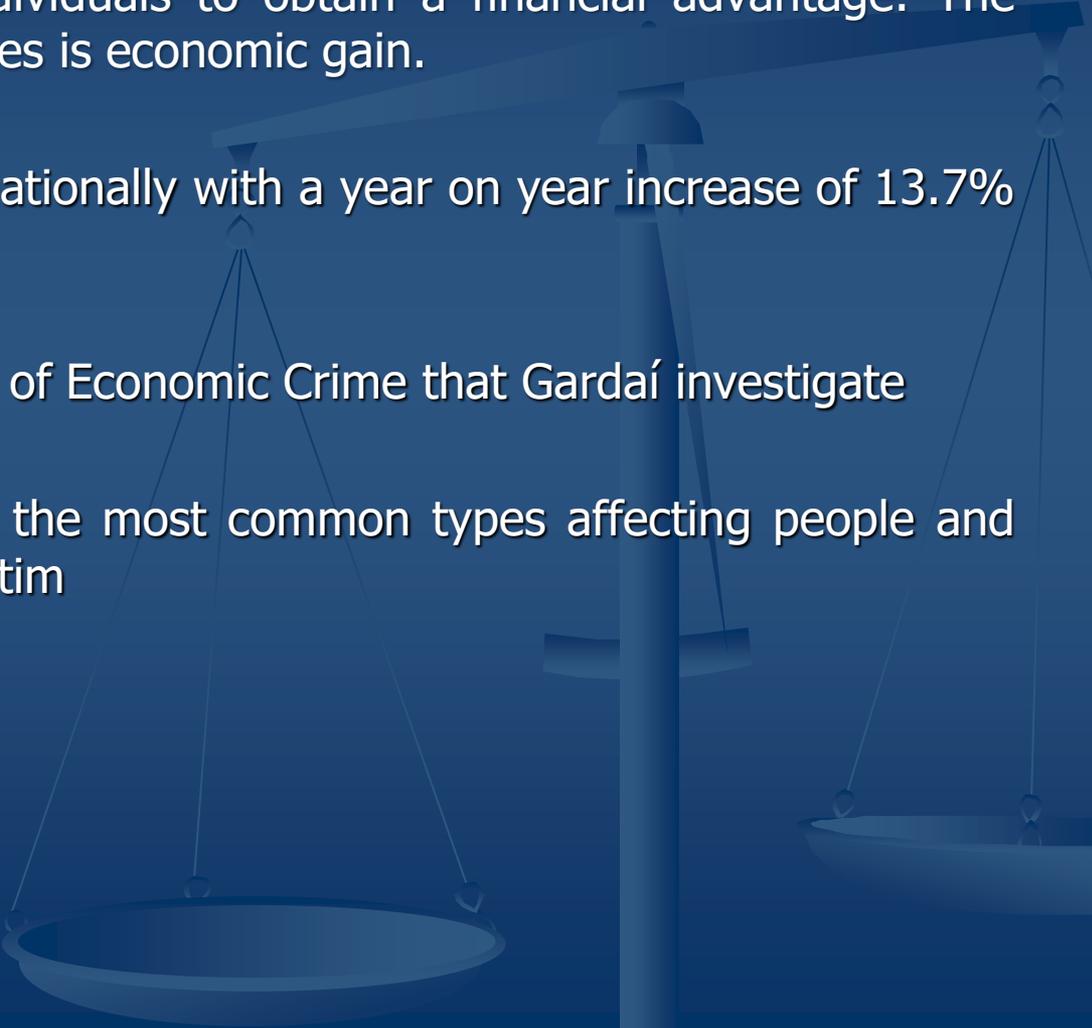
# Economic Crime Awareness NCA JPC Meeting



19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Inspector Patrick Gillick

# Background

- Economic crime, also known as fraud, refers to illegal acts committed by an individual or a group of individuals to obtain a financial advantage. The principal motive in such crimes is economic gain.
  - Economic crime is growing nationally with a year on year increase of 13.7% for Q1 of 2021
  - There are currently 30 types of Economic Crime that Gardaí investigate
  - The following pages outline the most common types affecting people and how to avoid becoming a victim
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# Phone Fraud

- This type of fraud involves criminals contacting you by phone (vishing) or by text (Smishing) pretending to be your bank, utility company etc. They will try and trick you into giving personal, banking or other information
- This has become more prevalent recently with a large amount of the public receiving calls purporting to be from Government Departments or An Garda Síochána requesting personal information

## Advice:

- Always say no and hang up or delete text
- Be wary of multiple calls or missed calls from unfamiliar numbers.
- Government agencies ordinarily and the Gardaí will never ring and ask for your PPS number
- Your bank will never look for your Banking PIN number or Password or ask you to transfer money
- If you are unsure, independently verify any requests for information and never use the contact details supplied to you by the caller or texter for this purpose
- If you do happen to give banking details, contact bank immediately in order to stop any potential money transfers.

# Payment Card Fraud

- This type of fraud involves the use of stolen payment cards to make purchases or cash withdrawals. It also includes the use of stolen card data to buy items over the phone or via the internet

## Advice:

- Keep your card in a safe place at all times. Report it to your bank immediately if it is lost / stolen
- Keep your PIN safe. Do not keep it with your card
- Cover your PIN when making in-store purchases or using an ATM
- Keep your card in sight when paying for goods or services

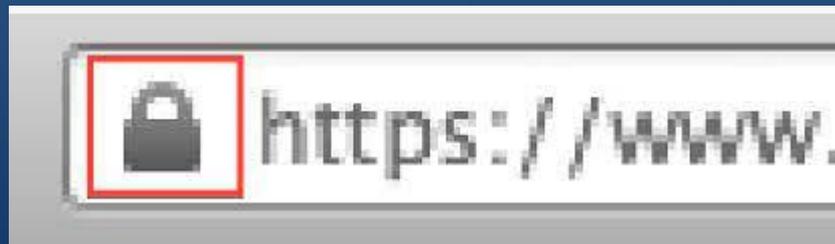


# Online Shopping Fraud

- The most common scams occur on online auction sites, where criminals pose as sellers of popular items, such as mobile phones, cars and designer goods at bargain prices. Their aim is to encourage you to transfer money quickly. After the payment is made they disappear, leaving you with no goods (or faulty or counterfeit goods) and no way of getting your money back

## Advice:

- Be aware of irresistible bargains. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is
- Be aware of spoofed websites. These are fake sites made to look like real ones
- Check the website address at the top of the web address bar to make sure no characters are incorrect. Look for 'https' at the beginning of the web address and the padlock symbol



- Check the seller's review history and feedback from other reviewers.

# Money Mules

- A money mule is a person who transfers illegally obtained money between different payment accounts and more often than not receives a commission payment in return. Even if money mules are not involved in the crimes which generate the money (cybercrime, payment and on-line fraud etc.), they are acting illegally. If you are caught acting as a money mule, even if done so unwittingly, you can face a prison sentence and the prospect of never being able to secure a mortgage or open a bank account

## Advice:

- Be very cautious of unsolicited emails or approaches over social media promising opportunities to make easy money.
- Verify any company that makes you a job offer and check their contact details (address, landline number, email address and website) are correct and whether they are registered in Ireland. Some companies are specifically set up in order for an unwitting employee to transfer stolen monies globally with specifics of the job being advertised invariably meaning using your bank account to move money.
- Never give your bank account or any other personal details to anyone unless you know and trust them.

# Useful Websites

- [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)
- [www.ccpc.ie](http://www.ccpc.ie)
- [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)
- [www.fraudsmart.ie](http://www.fraudsmart.ie)



# Questions

