

**Message sent by**

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\*\*\*\*\*FRAUD- INTERNET WEBSITES\*\*\*\*\*

The Police in Sheffield are dealing with a number of incidents as per below:

1.

A fraudster advertises a genuine property for rent. They target the student market, copying, pasting and placing adverts on Internet websites. They advertise the property with a low monthly rental rate, in comparison to the current market rate for that area.

When they have an interested party, the fraudster invents a story that they have relocated abroad and would prefer not to have to return to the UK. The fraudster asks the person to prove they have the funds to rent the property and requests a 'Moneygram' or 'Western Union' payment method, in some cases for as much as £900.

They send a copy of the receipt as proof of the transaction. When the potential tenant has heard nothing for a couple of days and returns to retrieve their money, they find it has been collected and is untraceable.

2.

Where the fraudster has been a previous tenant, current tenant or is about to vacate. Either way they have a set of keys and advertise the property for rent. They have even shown the person(s) around, producing fake documents, stating they are the agent for the owner. They ask for a bond or several months rent in advance and offering a discounted rate for cash.

For your information.

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