

# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

8: May '24

## Welcome!

Welcome to the May newsletter. Hope you all had a great May. There has been a lot of awareness raised across the country this month, and convictions of in person romance fraud by some forces, which is great to see but raises the question as to why far too many are still turning victims away claiming these are civil matters. This is our next challenge and we are always asking difficult questions when we can.



## Advocating

Cecilie went to CEL solicitors to give a talk around Romance Fraud. CEL offer to help with reimbursement claims for victims in the UK, on a No Win No Fee basis. This can also be achieved on your own however, under the right circumstances (around the CRM) and the help of the Financial Ombudsman. We have templates to help with this if your experience fits the requirements.



## Merchant Risk Council

Cecilie went to Barcelona to talk at the MRC conference this month. They are specialists in Payments Fraud and as we know, the fraudsters use every type of payment method to not only receive funds but also to launder them. It's important for all sectors to understand the depth of damage caused by this fraud and to do more to prevent the criminals accessing and moving funds without friction.



## What have we been up to in May?



Following on from the conviction of Peter Gray, 35 who stole £80,000 from several women through Romance Fraud, I was asked to talk about the manipulations used in this crime in order to make the victims compliant. BBC Radio 5 Live did a great job highlighting this fraud and letting the victims share their stories.

**Greater Manchester**  
**Victims' Services**

I did some training sessions with Manchester Victim Support Services this month, helping to build on the great work they are doing and to deepen the understanding about Romance Fraud victims and how to help in this specific crime.



**UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH**

This week saw the culmination of the unit of work I have been working on with two incredible students from The University of Portsmouth. This university has a Cyber Crime Unit and the students helped me research the software available which uses AI to power them. Deep fakes, voice cloning, picture manipulations and Chat GPT, all used to make Romance Fraud more legitimate to victims. This research has highlighted the effectiveness of the software and also the limitations, which means we can advise victims on what to look for and test when meeting people online.

## Just for now...

For a while, newsletters will be available on our pages in this format rather than email format due to the workload required to produce two from the same materials, as the email format has to be produced separately. Once we have the new system in place, there will be notifications in place via email, to access the monthly newsletter.

**Take care and stay safe,  
Anna and Cecilie**

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