

Home mover fraud rises by 5.6% according to new figures

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Newly released figures from Cifas reveal that cases of ‘previous occupier’ fraud rose by more than 5.6% last year. There were 15,005 reported cases in 2015 and 15,851 in 2016. Previous occupier fraud now accounts for 9.2% of all identity fraud in the UK.

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Previous occupier fraud occurs when someone moves out of a house and the new occupant obtains the former occupier’s personal details to fraudulently apply loans, credit cards etc. In light of these new figures, Royal Mail and Cifas are urging people to take much greater care of their identity when moving home. Royal Mail’s research has found that worryingly nearly half (47%) don’t take out a direction when they move.

Jim Conning, Managing Director of Data Services at Royal Mail, said: “The rise in this kind of fraud is worrying to see. We know from our own research that people move on average every 18 months leaving fraudsters with a huge opportunity.

“Whether you are renting or buying, taking out a Redirection reduces the chances of your personal details falling into the wrong hands – leaving you one less thing to worry about while you are settling into your new home.”

Simon Dukes, Chief Executive, Cifas said:

“Recent figures released by Cifas reveal that cases of identity fraud reached record levels in 2016. The frauds are usually very sophisticated with the fraudster often using the victim’s genuine current address to commit identity fraud. Keeping track of your mail when you change address is a simple step that will make a fraudster’s job much more difficult and reduce the opportunities for them to exploit your personal data. Today’s data shows that fraudsters attempted to use this tactic over 15,000 times last year so we all need to do what we can to avoid becoming a victim of an identity fraud.”

Source: [Royal Mail Group](#)