

Financial Services Commission Mauritius

Alert - Phishing Attempt by Mr Mohamed Hassan

The Financial Services Commission, Mauritius (the "FSC Mauritius") would like to alert members of the public of a correspondence from a certain Mr Mohamed Hassan, purportedly the Loan Controller Service Director of Capital Finance United Kingdom.

Mr Mohamed Hassan claims that Capital Finance United Kingdom is offering loans ranging from $\pounds 50,000$ to $\pounds 2$ Billion at an interest rate of 3% per annum with no credit check, including even people who are blacklisted.

The public is informed that no regulated financial institution would attempt to provide a loan to a client without a background credit check or more so when the client is blacklisted.

The FSC Mauritius urges members of the public to exercise appropriate caution in respect of such phishing correspondences and to avoid providing details of their bank accounts, credit card numbers, etc in their own interest.

Phishing refers to emails, text messages, letters and phone calls that seem to emanate from legitimate businesses that trick people into disclosing their personal and banking information. These scammers are generally looking for information like your bank account numbers, passwords and/or credit card numbers, which they will use for their own benefit.

The following could be used as a guideline to "protect yourself" from phishing scams:

- □ Never send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know and trust.
- □ Do not open suspicious or unsolicited emails (spam)—ignore them.
- \Box Do not click on any links in a spam email or open any files attached to them.
- \Box Never dial a telephone number that you see in a spam email or SMS.
- □ If you want to access an internet account website, use a bookmarked link or type the address in yourself—NEVER follow a link in an email.
- □ Check the website address carefully. Scammers often set up fake websites with very similar addresses.

- □ Never enter your personal, credit card or online account information on a website if you are not certain it is genuine.
- □ Never send your personal, credit card or online account details through an email.

You may also wish to refer to the <u>Social Media and Fraud Alert</u> issued by the FSC Mauritius on 11 July 2013.

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