

Purchase scams

[Voiceover] Purchase scams are just like the classic sleight of hand trick, but fraudsters use it to misdirect you into paying for an item or service that doesn't actually exist, making money vanish from your bank and into the fraudster's pocket.

The key to their trick is creating the illusion of legitimate websites, promoting their deals on social media and auction sites.

As with all good tricks things aren't always as they seem.

So look out for special offers and discounts that seem too good to be true, products that have limited availability, pressuring you to act, before you have time to think it through, and websites that ask you to pay by bank transfer, instead of secure payment options.

Online shopping can be deceiving, so remember to; only use secure and safe websites, keep in mind that the padlock doesn't mean the website is genuine, it only assures you the connection can't be intercepted.

Research retailers to ensure they are legitimate, check the web address for misspellings and additional characters.

Only use safe ways to pay, such as your debit or credit card, and check the returns and cancellations policy.

If the price looks too good to be true, then it probably is.

If you think you have been a victim of this scam, call the HSBC customer support number on the back of your card.