



## **POLICE NEWS RELEASE**

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### **POLICE ADVISORY – BEWARE OF FAKE JOB OFFERS FROM SCAMMERS**

The Police would like to warn members of the public who are looking for work-from-home jobs during this COVID-19 Heightened Alert period and the upcoming school holidays, to be on their guard against scams involving fake job advertisements. Job seekers might become victims of the scam or unknowingly be used as money mules to launder the proceeds of criminal activities.

2 In such scams, victims would receive unsolicited text messages, WhatsApp or Telegram messages or would come across Facebook advertisements offering highly paid work-from-home jobs as a Personal Assistant or to perform marketing-related jobs. For example, the scammers would claim that the job require the victim to:

- Help merchants to improve their sales by performing tasks such as placing items into shopping carts or liking posts on social media platforms; and/or
- Make payments to bank accounts in order to receive a commission based on the amount transferred.

3 Thereafter, the scammers would require the victims to download applications from dubious websites to facilitate payment for the tasks. The victims would be required to make upfront payment for a series of transactions before receiving full reimbursements with commissions. To enhance the credibility, the scammers would reimburse the victims with commissions in the initial stages in order to convince the victims that this was a legitimate job, and to induce them to deposit increasingly larger sums of money to earn more commission. At this point, the scammer would promise commissions only after a certain number of tasks had been completed, and would delay payment. The victims would only realise they had fallen prey to a scam when they did not receive the reimbursement and commission.

- 4 The Police would like to advise the members of the public on the following:
- a) If it is too good to be true, it probably is. Do not accept dubious job offers that offer lucrative returns for minimal effort;
  - b) If you are randomly invited into a messaging application group chat that you suspect is promoting a scam, report the group chat using the in-app function immediately to prevent others from falling prey to scams;
  - c) If possible, always verify the authenticity of the job with the official websites or sources; and
  - d) Do not click on suspicious URLs or download applications from unknown sources.

5 If you have information related to such crimes or if you are in doubt, please call the Police hotline at 1800-255-0000, or submit it online at [www.police.gov.sg/iwitness](http://www.police.gov.sg/iwitness). Please dial '999' if you require urgent Police assistance.

6 For more information on scams, members of the public can visit [www.scamalert.sg](http://www.scamalert.sg) or call the Anti-Scam Hotline at 1800-722-6688. Join the 'Spot the Signs. Stop the Crimes' campaign at [www.scamalert.sg/fight](http://www.scamalert.sg/fight) by signing up as an advocate to receive up-to-date messages and share them with your family and friends. Together, we can help stop scams and prevent our loved ones from becoming the next victim.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE  
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## Screenshot of Job Recruitment



## Screenshot of the dubious websites offering mobile applications

