

24th July 2019

Yesterday we dealt with a 71-year-old woman who was defrauded of £15,500 – half of her life savings – after someone on Facebook impersonated one of her friends.

They claimed that they had won "The Facebook Lottery", and that her name was on the winners list. All that "her friend" needed was the £15,500 to unlock £250,000 prize money. Believing it was her friend, she agreed to do this.

Of course, there was no prize money on the way.

We are asking everyone who has read this who has elderly relations or indeed knows anyone who might fall victim to this scam, to tell them about what has happened here.

Remember: if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Don't fall victim to a scam.

PC Hannah Kershaw said: "This case highlights the importance of remaining vigilant online at all times. Scammers don't care who you are and don't give a single thought to the impact of their actions on those they are defrauding — in this instance a 71-year-old woman. Everyone should take this as an opportunity to speak to their loved ones about how to stay safe online, because anyone could be their next victim."

For information about online security, please visit: www.staysafeonline.org