



Cleveland Police

FRAUD SCRUTINY PANEL

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR JIM FORSTER

What is Fraud?

- ▶ fraud by **false representation**
- ▶ fraud by **failing to disclose information**
- ▶ fraud by **abuse of position**



- ▶ the conduct must be **dishonest**
- ▶ **intention** to make a **gain** or to cause a **loss** or the risk of a loss
- ▶ no gain or loss needs actually to have been made
- ▶ the maximum sentence is **ten** years' imprisonment
- ▶ More commonly referred to as scam, cheat, con, trick, swindle etc

Fraud Investigations

Economic Crime Unit

- ▶ Specialist Fraud, confiscation and Cyber Crime
- ▶ Dedicated fraud and economic trained officers

Fraud is dealt with by all teams within Cleveland Police

- ▶ CID, Neighbourhoods, Response, CAVA



How is Fraud Reported?

Call for service

- ▶ Ongoing or recent crime
- ▶ Vulnerable victims
- ▶ Known local suspects

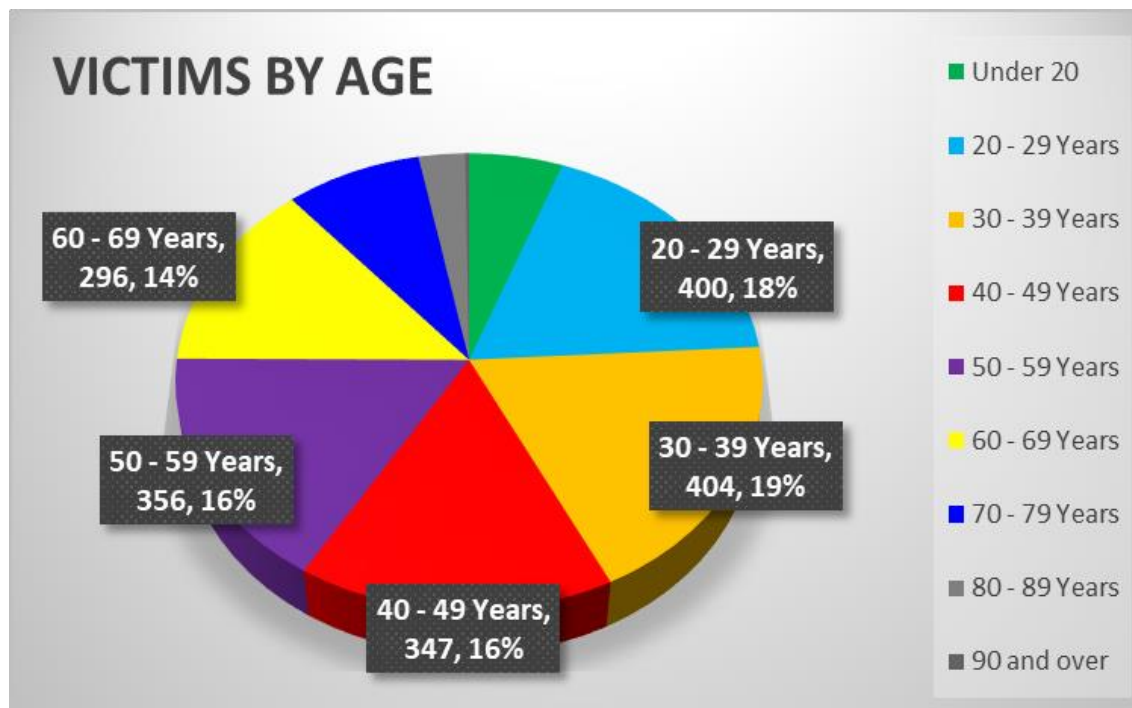
Action Fraud

- ▶ All other fraud and cyber crime
- ▶ Crime decision and record
- ▶ Provide basic victim support and advice
- ▶ Pass to National Fraud Intelligence Bureau for assessment
- ▶ NFIB disseminate out to local forces

Victim Lists?

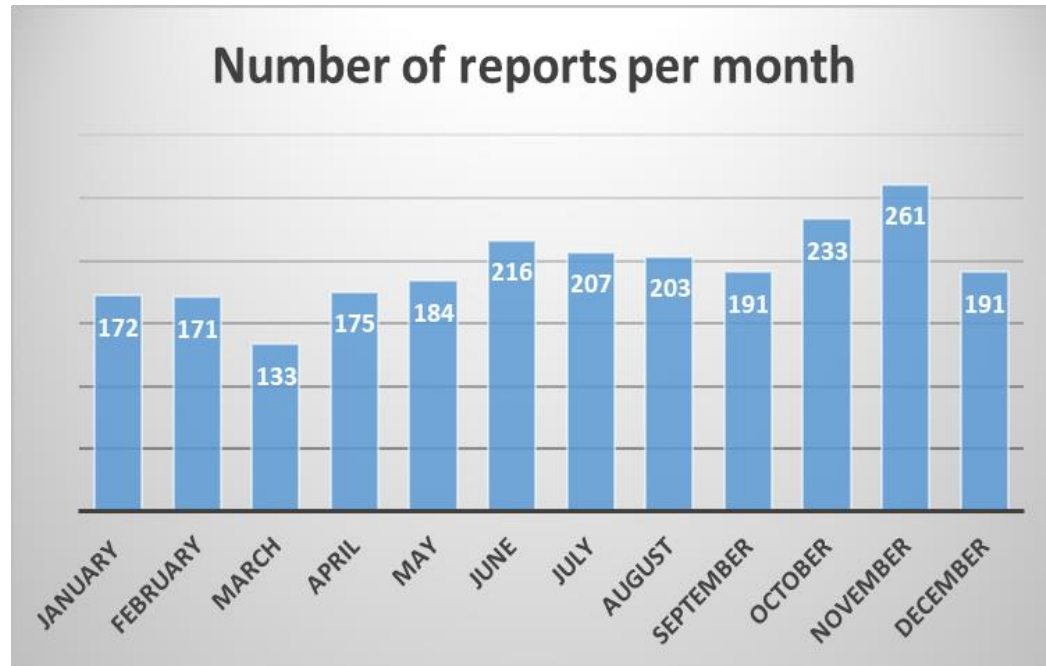
- ▶ Sent to Police forces once a week and contain details of victims and a summary of the offence reported.
- ▶ Purpose is to safeguard victims.
- ▶ Details of victims shared with VCAS who contact victims and offer support.
- ▶ Invited to a scambuster session at the CSH (pre-COVID) (Webinars now)
- ▶ Receive a letter with Fraud advice and support
- ▶ Details shared with Neighbourhood Police for contact / visit.

Who are the victims?



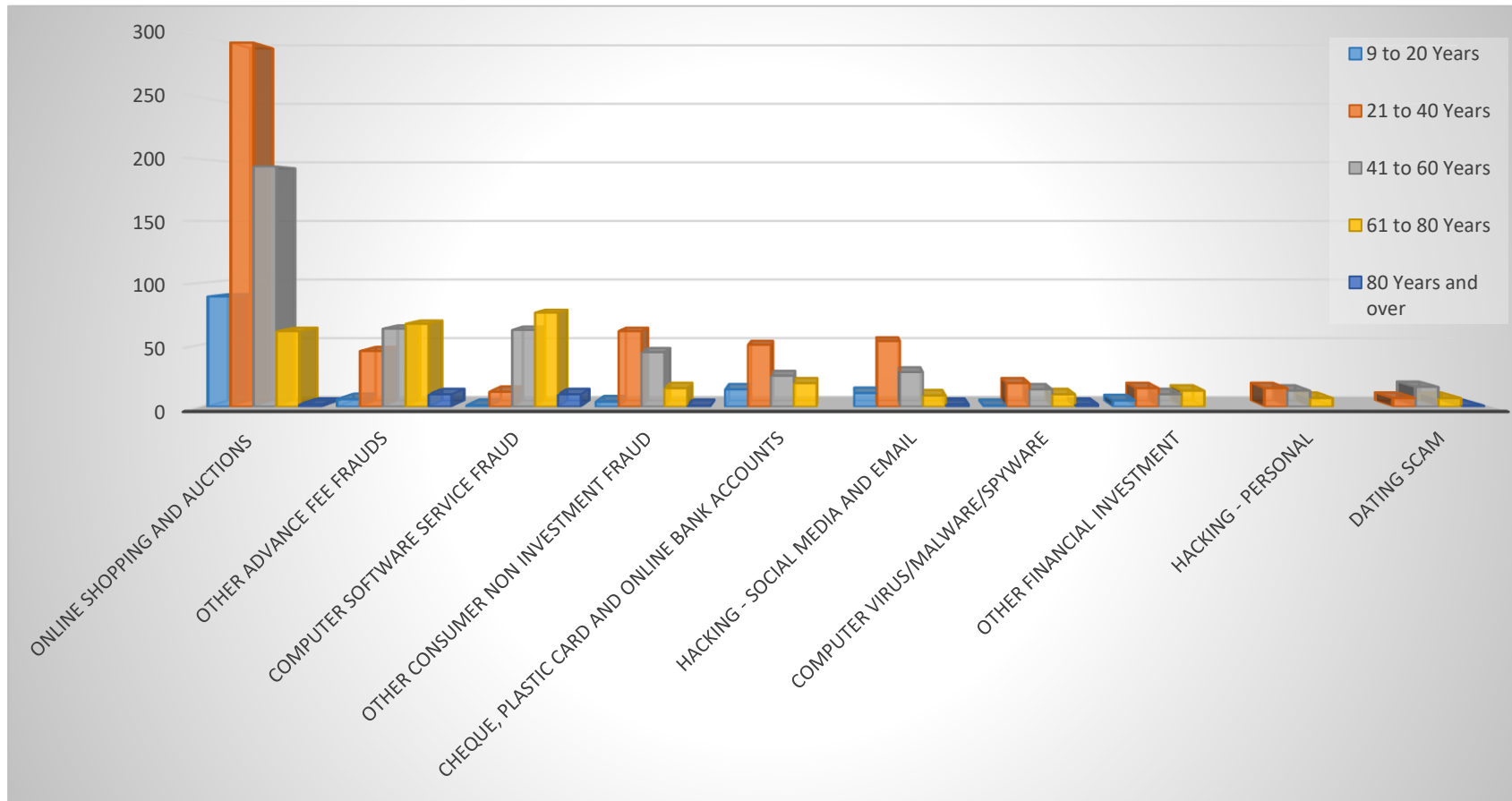
- ▶ Victims are 50% male and 50% female
- ▶ Fairly even spread over age groups
- ▶ The nature of the offences change
- ▶ Younger – more online purchase fraud (ebay etc)
- ▶ Older – more computer service fraud and courier fraud

Victims per month and by area 2020

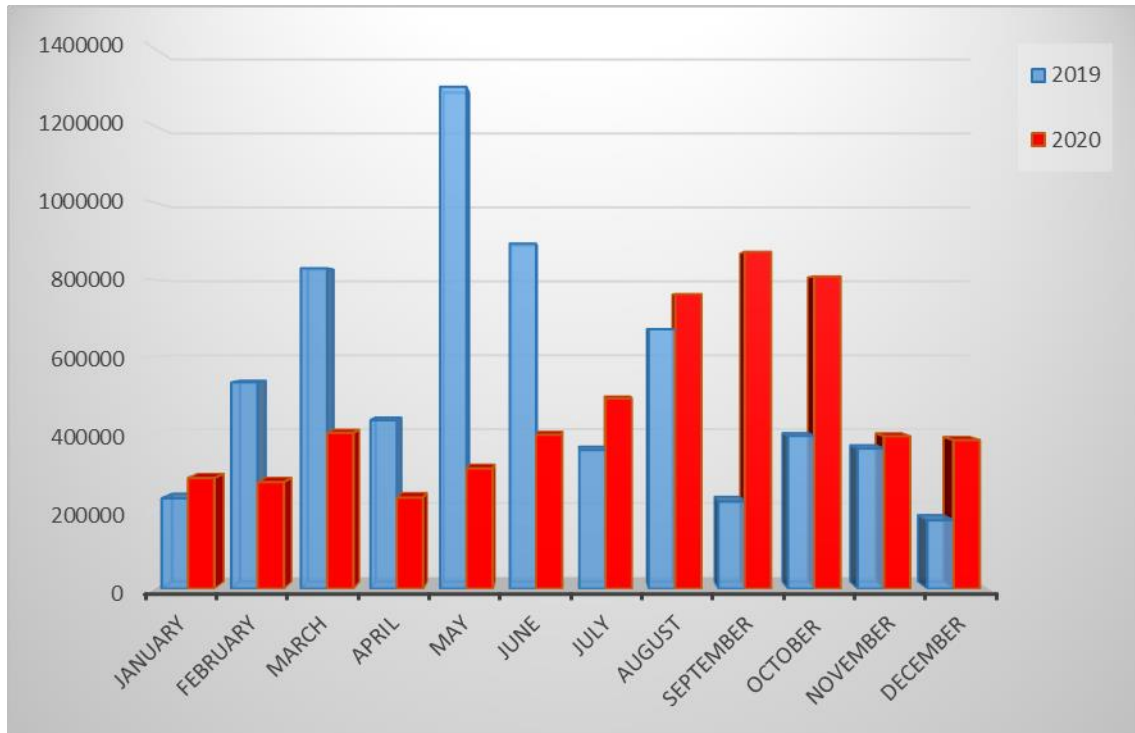


- ▶ 2337 victims reported to us via Action Fraud for 2020
- ▶ 149 businesses
- ▶ Stockton 832
- ▶ Middlesbrough 624
- ▶ Redcar and Cleveland 562
- ▶ Hartlepool 319

Types of offence



Victim Losses



- ▶ Includes businesses
- ▶ Large scale investment frauds
- ▶ Some people do not report or under report

Partnerships

- ▶ **VCAS**
 - ▶ Provide victim support / advice
- ▶ **UkFinance & Cifas**
 - ▶ Banks and financial institutions
 - ▶ Banking protocol
 - ▶ Return missing funds
- ▶ **City of London (AF and NFIB)**
- ▶ **Get Safe Online**



Victim Awareness

- ▶ Fraud campaigns throughout year
- ▶ Scambuster / Webinars with VCAS
- ▶ Press releases for ongoing frauds – eg courier fraud
- ▶ Online, radio, television
- ▶ Over 2020, just over 1 million measureable interactions
- ▶ Little and Big Books.
- ▶ National Campaigns (Op Otello)
- ▶ Protect Officer



COVID19 Effects

- ▶ More vulnerability through isolation
- ▶ More online activity
- ▶ Creation of COVID and lockdown frauds
- ▶ Online shopping fraud increase (not just PPE)
- ▶ NHS Vaccine fraud / HMRC Fraud
- ▶ Courier Fraud evolved to non contact
- ▶ Romance fraud

Links

- ▶ [Little Book of Cyber Scams](#)
- ▶ [Little Leaflet of Cyber Advice](#)
- ▶ [Little Book of Big Scams](#)
- ▶ [Little Book of Phone Scams](#)

- ▶ [Report a Fraud and Fraud Advice](#)