

Get Safe Online has revealed that fraud and cybercrime costs the UK a staggering £11 billion in 2015/16.

53% of the population received fraudulent emails or messages which have attempted to direct them to websites, where their personal information could have been stolen, including bank details, user names and passwords.

28% of people reported being contacted by someone who was trying to trick them into giving away personal information.

10% had their email or social media accounts hacked.

3% had been victims of ransomware, a fast-growing means of online extortion.

Now the public and small businesses are being urged to start “making every day safer” as the latest online crime figures from Get Safe Online and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) reveals that a staggering £10.9 billion was lost to the UK economy as a result of fraud, including cybercrime, in 2015/16.

Many people are still not taking the basic steps to keep themselves safe online with as many as 43% saying that they use the same password for multiple online accounts.

Get Safe Online is encouraging everyone to start making every day safer by following a few simple steps:

- **Review the passwords you use on your online accounts: Make sure they're strong enough and that you are not using the same ones for more than one account.**
- **Consider how you're going to remember them all – such as using an online password safe.**
- **Check your social media privacy settings. Make sure your information and updates are seen by only those you trust.**
- **Update your operating system and software programs/apps on your computer, mobile phone and tablet if you've been prompted to do so. Back up your information – using the cloud is a great way to save all your documents, photos, music, emails and other irreplaceable files.**
- **Check that your Internet security software and apps are up to date and switched on.**
- **If you have children, think about whether you're doing enough to help ensure they're staying safe online.**

If you've lost money report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud reporting centre by calling 0300 123 20 40 or by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk If you are a victim of online abuse or harassment, you should report it to your local police force.

Take a few minutes to read the expert, easy-to-follow, free advice on all of these and considerably more subjects at <http://www.getsafeonline.org>