



How to avoid investment scams

The coronavirus pandemic has seen a surge in attempted investment scams. Financial security is obviously at the forefront of many people's minds and we encourage anyone wishing to invest monies either through savings, pensions or investments to think carefully when contacted out of the blue by someone who is not known to you. Here below are some warning signs to look out for:

- **Unexpected contact**
Traditionally scammers cold-call but contact can also come from online sources e.g. email or social media, post, word of mouth or even in person
- **Time pressure**
They might offer you a bonus or discount if you invest before a set date or say the opportunity is only available for a short period
- **Social proof**
They may share fake reviews and claim other clients have invested or want in on the deal
- **Unrealistic returns**
Fraudsters often promise tempting returns that sound too good to be true, such as much better interest rates than elsewhere
- **False authority**
Using literature and websites that are hard to distinguish from the real thing, claiming to be regulated, speaking with authority on investment products
- **Flattery**
Building a friendship with you to lull you into a false sense of security

If in doubt, always seek impartial advice from a financial adviser regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). A directory of regulated advisers can be found at <https://register.fca.org.uk/>

The FCA are encouraging individuals to be ScamSmart. To report a scam or to find out more visit: www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart

If you would like to review your existing arrangements or to discuss how we can help you make your money work harder for you please contact us today. The initial exploratory review is without cost or obligation.

☎ 01603 789966

✉ enquiries@smith-pinching.co.uk