

# Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | June 2021 | Issue 10



In this month's newsletter:

Article 1 -  
Scams

Article 2 - British Value;  
Democracy

## Introduction

It is almost the end of June, and the summer is well and truly here. It is looking highly likely that most of us will be holidaying in the UK this year. The race is on between the vaccination programme and the Delta variant. We do have to learn to live with covid at some point but let's all keep following the rules, and fingers crossed on the 19<sup>th</sup> July remaining restrictions will be lifted. I am sure that even if we are told that social distancing and mask wearing can cease, many of us will continue to wear them. We should all do what we feel comfortable with, and we should respect each other's wishes. Don't forget this is also part of our British Values. Our series on those values finishes this month.

Couple of updates on recent articles and comments.

Last month we included an article, on the very important theme of the government findings about racial inequality within Britain and businesses. MPs also produced a recent report which builds on last month's theme which I thought maybe of interest. The link to the article below shows MPs have reported that working class white pupils have been let down for decades by the education system. [Poorer white pupils let down and neglected - MPs - BBC News](#)

Finally remember when I said I would get back on my bike. Well, I must admit I haven't! I could argue that I have been chopping down trees and dog walking and so have been exercising, I've even been for a couple of short runs. But I set a goal and so far, it hasn't yet been achieved. So, tonight's the night, come rain or shine I am getting out there. I will report back in the next issue!

Stay safe!

# Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | June 2021

## Article 1 – Scams

There are increasing numbers of scams about. The job of our monthly newsletter is to educate and inform about issues of safeguarding and prevent. I was sent a bulletin the other day from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau and the City of London Police. It seems that there have been increasing incidents of 'cold calling' by people allegedly from mobile phone network operators offering early handset upgrades, new contracts, or significant upgrades.

Once convinced the 'customers' are asked for their account details including bank details. The suspects then place an order on behalf of the customer to genuine mobile companies but they deliberately select different handsets or contracts and have the items shipped out to the customer. The suspects tell the customer that there has been a genuine error and give the customer a bogus address to return the equipment to. Once the suspects have intercepted the returned goods, they cease contact with the victims and the victim is left with a contract they are bound to, that has been taken out in their name.

The following advice has been issued:

- Cold calls about mobile upgrades and contracts - If you are unsure that the person calling you is an official representative of the company they claim to be from, hang up and do not reveal any personal information.
- Only contact your mobile network provider on a number you know to be correct. For example, 191 for Vodafone customers, 150 for EE customers, 333 for Three customers, 202 for O2 customers, 4455 for Tesco Mobile, 789 for Virgin Mobile and 150 for Sky Mobile.
- If you receive a device that you did not order or expect, contact the genuine sender immediately. The details for this will be within the parcel.
- NEVER post a device directly to a given address. All genuine Mobile Network Operators would send out a jiffy bag for you to return without you incurring additional cost.



Caroline and I have received a (pretty poor) scam recently. A call from a mobile number saying that it is the National Crime Agency and that our National Insurance Numbers will be suspended as we have been linked to a serious crime and that we should press 1 to speak to someone to resolve this. Clearly all we did was hang up and promptly block the caller.

Be aware scams are on the increase if you don't know who is calling then hang up.

# Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | June 2021

## Article 2 – British Values; Democracy

Over the last few months, we have been running our series on British Values. This month we finish the series by looking at Democracy and by summarising the overall point of the Fundamental British Values, why they are important and why they were developed and taught.

What do we understand by Democracy? Democracy is all about social equality, control through the views of the majority. Democracy is a system of government run by elected representatives. It is about making change through debate, through agreement. Fortunately, we live in a country where we are allowed an opinion and we do not have the rules and values dictated by an individual or a specific group.

At Peak we actively encourage feedback, we value apprentices, students, staff and employers' opinions and we build that into our courses and programmes. This is an example of democracy at work.

Our democratic right is served through the ballot box we have the right to vote for the people who represent our views in parliament. But we can then continue to lobby and have access to MP's. Indeed, Peak have had exchanges of emails with our local MP's office during the pandemic over various business-related issues. With public limited companies at level 4 you will learn that they are owned by their shareholders. Those shareholders are highly unlikely to have anything to do with the day-to-day management of the company, but they have the right through their ability to vote to change the management and have access to the company to voice their concerns. These are all examples of democracy.



The Fundamental British Values were introduced and are promoted as part of the country's Prevent strategy. These are underlying values to balance the freedom of thought, expression and choice in a liberal society with the need to maintain a safe and secure society. They were designed to create social unity and to prevent extremism.

The promotion of the Prevent strategy in schools and through education was highlighted partly as a result of what has become known as 'the trojan horse' plot. This was an attempt to take over state schools in Birmingham with extremist views. The home secretary at the time - Theresa May made a speech entitled 'a stronger Britain built on our values' the link to which I have included below, you may wish to have a read.

There have been arguments over the values, and you may have your own views on whether you think they work in all respects, but I am sure you agree that the intention is to create a balance between freedom of expression and maintaining law and order in a country we can all be proud to be part of.

[A Stronger Britain, Built On Our Values - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

# Peak Accountancy Training

Safeguarding Newsletter | June 2021



Clive Pauling  
Safeguarding Lead  
[clive@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk](mailto:clive@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk)  
07837 712 510

Tina Shaw  
Safeguarding Deputy  
[tina@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk](mailto:tina@peakaccountancytraining.co.uk)  
07377 414 386

## Other contacts

Samaritans	Phone: 116 123 Website: <a href="http://www.samaritans.org">www.samaritans.org</a>
MIND (Mental Health)	Phone: 0300 123 3393 Text: 86463 Website: <a href="http://www.mind.org.uk">www.mind.org.uk</a>
NHS (Urgent medical conditions)	Phone: 111
Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance)	Phone: 999
PREVENT (Suspicious activity, terrorism, radicalization)	Phone: 0800 789 321
RUN. HIDE. TELL. (Although terrorist attacks are very rare, we are not complacent about keeping you safe)	Website: <a href="http://www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe">www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe</a>