## Banking Automation BULLETIN



# Criminals shift focus to Authorised Push Payment fraud

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Digital wallets – no longer hidden and highly sought after

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Netherlands

### Banking Automation



## Criminals shift focus to Authorised Push Payment fraud

Fraud in the banking and payments industry continues to grow – while the financial impact is significant in

itself, we must not forget the human impact too. This is all the more true of one of the latest trends, Authorised Push Payment (APP) fraud, where scamming victims is key to the criminals' success, placing an additional burden on victims who feel they are partly to blame.

The growth in APP fraud is a reflection of successes in tackling more traditional forms of financial crime, which has caused criminals to identify human behaviour as one of the weaker links which can be exploited; but that is of no comfort to the individual or companies impacted by such crime.

In such scams, criminals impersonate organisations such as the NHS, banks and government departments via phone calls, texts, emails, fake websites and social media posts, to trick people into sending money to accounts controlled by criminals.

UK Finance, an industry body representing 300 firms across the banking and finance industry, publishes an annual fraud report (see page 4) which provides useful insights into the latest trends. When it comes to APP fraud, the latest report showed an overall increase in losses of 39% in 2021 to £583 million.

The report tracks a full range of APP scams, including purchase scams, investment scams, romance scams, advance fee scams, invoice scams, CEO fraud and various types of impersonation fraud – the value of losses increased in all but one of these categories last year. It is not just individuals that are targeted, with the largest increase, albeit in one of the smallest categories, being CEO fraud where the scammer impersonates CEOs or other high-ranking employees and convinces victims to make urgent payments to a criminal's account.

On a positive note, 47% of losses from APP scams were returned to victims in 2021, but this is well behind the 98% reimbursement achieved for victims of card fraud. Furthermore, banks are still bearing much of these costs, so there is still plenty that needs to be done to combat fraud. Past successes show what can be achieved especially when different stakeholders, including banks, government, regulators, telecoms, social media companies and law enforcement work together.

If you would like to find out more about the latest initiatives to tackle fraud, not just APP but card fraud and other types too, RBR's BankSec 2022 conference is being held in London on 4th and 5th October – visit www.rbrlondon.com/bsec for information and tickets.

Dominic Hirsch, Editor

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