

Intelligence Alert

GSC

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Evaluation		
Source Evaluation	1	Reliable
Intelligence Evaluation	B	Known indirectly but corroborated
Handling Code	C	Lawful sharing permitted with conditions
National Intelligence Model Level	2: Cross Border Multiple members affected	
Handling Conditions	May be shared outside member organisation with Schools and Academies Contents must not be uploaded to any public facing websites	

School Charity Cheque Fraud

NAFN members have reported that a number of schools in their area have been exposed to fraud, all relating to cheques made payable to the charity, Children in Need. In some cases, the banks have noted the abnormalities and stopped payment. However, we are advised a number of the payments have been successfully paid to a personal account or cashed for much larger sums. We can confirm while some of the schools targeted are in the same area, the reports received are also cross border.

The fundraising cheques were sent by post to the PO Box address connected to the Children in Need charity. It appears the cheques have been intercepted and details, including the payee name and amount, have been changed. For example, a cheque for £92.56, was altered to £5,000 and a further cheque for £92.65 was amended to £3,000.65. The changes made are said to be very convincing.

The banks are investigating the fraud, as the schools continue to seek recovery of the funds.

The amended payee details have not been shared.

In the event that your organisation falls victim to cheque fraud, we would recommend the following:

- Contact your bank with the details and ask them to hold payment of further cheques.
- Contact the police, as your bank will likely require a crime reference number.
- Contact your internal Corporate Anti-Fraud or Internal Audit Team (or equivalent).
- Avoid envelopes, which may show a cheque is inside, for example window envelopes.
- Retain copy cheques for all charity donations.
- Ensure completion of prompt bank reconciliations upon receipt of each statement.

This has been reported to Action Fraud.

If you would like to report any instances of the above information being used in similar fraud attempts please email them to intel@nafn.gov.uk and the details will be forwarded to the relevant teams. Please also report to [Action Fraud](#). Alerts provide information about fraud, risks and trends which may affect members; your contributions are vital – please email them to [NAFN](#). Where appropriate please include handling restrictions.