

# SCAM LETTER

For several years, there has been a successful international fraud that has targeted businesses and professionals. The ploy is a simple one – extraordinary amounts of money are offered for the use of a U.S. bank account. The scam started as a type written letter on onionskin paper allegedly from a Nigerian official in control of millions of dollars. The official wished to transfer the money to an American account and offered a large percentage of the money to anyone who would assist. The letter has been modified many times and is now being sent via e-mail to a much broader audience.

The U.S. Secret Service is the lead investigating agency. They are working with local, state, federal and international authorities to locate and arrest the individuals involved. Many individuals have reported the loss of money from their accounts with international losses reportedly in the millions. Many others are too embarrassed to report the crime.

Individuals who receive this e-mail should:

- 1) Do not answer it! If you did and/or lost money, please notify the police.
- 2) Notify your e-mail carrier. This is a crime and your e-mail carrier should take measures to prevent others from receiving similar e-mail.
- 3) **If you have questions, please contact your local police department.**

## **Sample Scam Letter**

[URGENT AND CONFIDENTIAL]

(RE: TRANSFER OF (\$ 152,000.000.00 USD ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY TWO MILLION DOLLARS )

Dear Sir,

We want to transfer to overseas (\$ 152,000.000.00 USD) One hundred and Fifty two million United States Dollars) from a Bank in Africa, I want to ask you to quietly look for a reliable and honest person who will be capable and fit to provide either an existing bank account or to set up a new Bank a/c immediately to receive this money, even an empty a/c can serve to receive this money, as long as you will remain honest to me till the end for this important business trusting in you and believing in God that you will never let me down either now or in future.

I am Petet Agu, the Auditor General of a bank in Africa, during the course of our auditing, I discovered a floating fund in an account opened in the bank in 1990 and since 1993 nobody has operated on this account again, after going through some old files in the records I discovered that the owner of the account died without a [heir] hence the money is floating and if I do not remit this money out urgently it will be forfeited for nothing. The owner of this account is Mr. Magnus Leon,

a foreigner, and a sailor, and he died, since 1993 and no other person knows about this account or any thing concerning it, the account has no other beneficiary and my investigation proved to me as well that Magnus Leon until his death was the manager Magnus Coy.(pty). SA.

We will start the first transfer with fifty two million [\$52,000.000] upon successful transaction without any disappoint from your side, we shall re-apply for the payment of the remaining rest amount to your account. The amount involved is (USD 152M) One hundred and Fifty two million United States Dollars, only I want to first transfer \$52,000.000 [fifty two million United States Dollar from this money into a safe foreigners account abroad before the rest, but I don't know any foreigner, I am only contacting you as a foreigner because this money can not be approved to a local person here, without valid international foreign passport, but can only be approved to any foreigner with valid international passport or drivers license and foreign a/c because the money is in US. DPOST 1.0ollars and the former owner of the a/c Mr. Magnus Leon is a foreigner too, [and the money can only be approved into a foreign a/c

However, we will sign a binding agreement, to bind us together. I got your contact address from the Girl who operates computer. I am revealing this to you with believe in God that you will never let me down in this business, you are the first and the only person that I am contacting for this business, so please reply urgently so that I will inform you the next step to take urgently. Send also your private telephone and fax number including the full details of the account to be used for the deposit.

I want us to meet face to face to build confidence and to sign a binding agreement that will bind us together before transferring the money to any account of your choice where the fund will be safe. Before we fly to your country for withdrawal, sharing and investments.

I need your full co-operation to make this work fine because the management is ready to approve this payment to any foreigner who has correct information of this account, which I will give to you, upon your positive response and once I am convinced that you are capable and will meet up with instruction of a key bank official who is deeply involved with me in this business. I need your strong assurance that you will never, never let me down.

With my influence and the position of the bank official we can transfer this money to any foreigner's reliable account which you can provide with assurance that this money will be intact pending our physical arrival in your country for sharing. The bank official will destroy all documents of transaction immediately we receive this money leaving no trace to any place and to build confidence you can come immediately to discuss with me face to face after which I will make this remittance in your presence and three of us will fly to your country at least two days ahead of the money going into the account.

I will apply for annual leave to get visa immediately I hear from you that you are ready to act and receive this fund in your account. I will use my position and influence to obtain all legal approvals for onward transfer of this money to your account with appropriate clearance from the relevant ministries and foreign exchange departments.

At the conclusion of this business, you will be given 35% of the total amount, 60% will be for me, while 5% will be for expenses both parties might have incurred during the process of transferring.

I look forward to your earliest reply

Yours,  
Peter Agu.

## **United Kingdom Press Release – ZDNet (UK)**

This story was printed from [ZDNN](#), located at <http://msn.com.com/2001-11-0.html>.

# **Six arrested over 'Nigerian e-mail' fraud**

By [Graeme Wearden](#)

[ZDNet \(UK\)](#)

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**Six people were arrested in South Africa over the weekend on suspicion of being involved in the infamous "Nigerian" e-mail and letter fraud.**

Four of those detained were Nigerian, one was Cameroonian and the sixth was South African. Police in South Africa believe that the six are part of an international fraud and drug-dealing cartel, sending out thousands of e-mail and letters in an attempt to defraud.

Police seized a large amount of drugs, as well as computer equipment and false identification papers. According to published reports from South Africa, officers from the UK's Scotland Yard were also involved in the operation. A Metropolitan police spokesman was unable to confirm this, however.

The arrests could mark an important breakthrough in the battle against the international scam, which is thought to have defrauded hundreds of millions of dollars from victims. The fraud is also known as the "West African advanced fee fraud" or the "419 fraud" -- 419 being the relevant section of the Nigerian criminal code.

Potential victims receive a letter -- or, more recently, an e-mail -- telling them that the sender is trying to move a large sum of money and offering them a substantial percentage of the cash in return for letting it be deposited into their bank account.

Often the perpetrators claim that the Nigerian government is paying out this money in return for a completed contract, while other versions claim to involve insurance payouts after airplane crashes.

People who express an interest are then told that they must first hand over an amount of money to cover expenses such as banking fees and administrative costs. These "advanced fees" often cost a bundle; there are cases where U.S. victims have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Nigerian government has set up a unit in London to fight the fraud, but many people are still being taken in.

One problem is that many victims don't report that they have been defrauded, either through embarrassment or because they aren't sure who to contact.

Roland Perry, vice chairman of the Internet Crime Forum, said last month that it isn't clear which law enforcement body people should contact with [cybercrime complaints](#).

"Where do you go if you get a Nigerian e-mail?" asked Perry. "Do you report it to the National Criminal Intelligence Service, the Metropolitan Police, the Fraud Squad, the National High-

Tech Crime Unit or your local police? If you take one of these e-mails to your local police, what is the chap behind the desk supposed to do with it?"