

CROYDON TRADING STANDARDS

COMMUNITY ALERT

Quishing – QR Scams

QR codes seemed to really take off during the pandemic, when restaurants had us enthusiastically scanning them so we could order from our phones and minimise interactions with waiting staff.

But as with anything, they've been exploited by cybercriminals to deceive victims into using copycat sites. This con is known as 'quishing', or QR phishing.

The criminals have cottoned on to the fact that we tend to assume such codes are genuine and scan them without a second thought.

For example, in recent years phoney QR codes stuck on parking meters by scammers have misdirected drivers to spoofed payment apps, where they end up unwittingly enrolling in costly monthly subscriptions.

- Always go direct to a website by looking up a company on a reputable search engine or app store and picking the highest relevant organic result. Watch out for search ad scams that can appear at the top of results pages on search engines, as a recent investigation found scammers imitating legitimate parking firms on Google, Yahoo and Bing.



If you have been scammed or duped, please report to **Citizens Advice Consumer Advice Line on 0808 223 1133** or go to the following website to report online:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/if-you-need-more-help-about-a-consumer-issue/>