

# [Press release: Ransomware threat – keep your charity safe](#)

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, is issuing this alert to charities as regulatory advice under section 15(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Charities could be at risk and are urged to be vigilant.

Over 200,000 organisations, including the National Health Service (NHS), in 150 countries have been affected by a recent ransomware attack. The vulnerabilities exploited by the hackers are the same for charities as they are for individuals, public or private sector organisations.

The Charity Commission encourages all charities to follow protection advice recently issued by the City of London Police and National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

## **Key protection messages:**

- install system updates on all devices as soon as they become available
- install anti-virus software on all devices and keep it updated
- create regular backups of your important/business critical files to a device that is not left connected to your network, as any malware infection could be spread to that too
- do not meet any stated demands and pay a ransom – this may be requested via Bitcoins (a form of digital or ‘crypto’ currency)

National Cyber Security Centre technical guidance includes specific software patches to use that will prevent infected computers on your network from becoming infected with the “WannaCry” Ransomware.

Additional in-depth technical guidance on how to protect your organisation from ransomware can also be found on the [NCSC website](#).

## **Phishing/Smishing**

Fraudsters may exploit this high profile incident and use it as part of phishing/smishing (SMS phishing) campaigns. Charities are urged to be cautious if they receive any unsolicited communications from the NHS.

The protect advice is:

- any email address can be spoofed – do not open attachments or click on the links within any unsolicited emails you receive, and never respond to emails that ask for personal/charity information or financial details
- the sender’s name and number in a text message can be spoofed – so even if the message appears to be from an organisation you know of, continue to exercise caution, particularly if the texts are asking you to click on a link or call a number

## How to report

If you think your charity has fallen victim to cyber-attack, you should report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting [ActionFraud](#).

Trustees are advised to also report suspected or known fraud incidents to the Commission by emailing [RSI@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:RSI@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk)

Serious incident reporting helps the Commission to gauge the volume and impact of incidents within charities and to understand the risks facing the sector as a whole.

Harvey Grenville, Head of Investigations and Enforcement at the Charity Commission said:

Charities need to be aware of the imminent danger posed by ransomware threats and take appropriate steps to protect their charity from cyber-attack – a charity's valuable assets and good reputation can be put at risk from these dangerous scams.

I urge all charities, if they suspect they may have fallen victim to cyber fraud, to report it immediately to Action Fraud and to the Commission, under its serious incident reporting regime.

You can visit [Charities against fraud](#) for advice and top tips on how to protect your charity against cyber-fraud.

Ends.

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## Notes to editors

The Charity Commission is the independent registrar and regulator of charities in England and Wales.

We act in the public's interest, to ensure that:

- charities know what they have to do
  - the public know what charities do
  - charities are held to account
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## [News story: Animal medicines seizure: UK Border Force](#)

UK Border Force at Manchester Airport, stopped a passenger who had the following medicines in their baggage.

The medicines was seized under Regulation 25 (Importation of unauthorised veterinary medicinal products) of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

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## [News story: ATM merger referred for full investigation](#)

On 3 May the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said it would [refer the merger for a phase 2 investigation](#) unless Cardtronics offered acceptable proposals to address these concerns by 10 May.

As Cardtronics has not offered these undertakings, the CMA will now refer the merger.

A decision on the merger will be made by a group of independent panel members supported by a case team of CMA staff. The deadline for the final report is 27 October 2017.

All information relating to the investigation is available on the [case page](#).

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## [Speech: Belt and Road Forum in Beijing: Chancellor's speech](#)

It is an honour to speak at this important forum.

I commend President Xi for his excellent speech this morning...

...and for setting in train such a bold and visionary project.

This initiative is truly ground-breaking in the scale of its ambition...

...spanning more than sixty-five countries, across four continents...

...and it has the potential to raise the living standards of 70% of the global population.

## **Context**

China's ability to drive phenomenal economic development is well proven.

Since 1980 the Chinese economy has grown by over 2,500%...

...this year, it is expected to account for a quarter of global economic growth.

And of course the reason economic growth matters is because of how it transforms peoples' lives...

...800 million Chinese citizens have been lifted out of poverty in the past 40 years.

## **Driving forward**

Trade has played an important role in China's growth.

Indeed, global trade has underpinned much of the increase in prosperity that we have seen globally.

We have to acknowledge however that rapid economic change has been unsettling for some of our citizens.

As leaders we must respond to these concerns...

...by continuing to seek new opportunities for trade...

...but at the same time ensuring that all our citizens are reaping the benefits that it brings.

The Belt and Road initiative provides us with a great opportunity to put these words into action.

As President Xi has said...

...the initiative must "follow the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefit".

I agree.

And it is my belief that Britain, lying at the Western end of the Belt and Road, is a natural partner in this endeavour.

Britain has, for centuries been one of the strongest advocates of an open global trading system.

And as we embark on a new chapter in our history, as we leave the European Union...

...we want to maintain a close and open trading partnership with our European neighbours...

...but at the same time, it is our ambition to secure free trade agreements around the world with new partners and old allies alike.

Our ambition is for more trade, not less.

China clearly shares this ambition...

...and I support President Xi's target to have mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreements in place with 40% of Belt and Road countries by the end of this year.

Central to the project is of course the need to address infrastructure challenges along the Belt and Road.

Asia's infrastructure needs alone are estimated at \$26 trillion out to 2030...

...and China has already pledged to invest \$4 trillion in Belt and Road countries through this initiative.

The UK can be a natural partner in delivering this infrastructure...

...supporting the finance, design, and delivery needed to make President Xi's vision a reality.

## **Conclusion**

China and the UK have a long and rich trading history...

...indeed the English first attempted to establish a trade route to China in the 16th Century...

...although it took us four decades to find one!

I welcome the Belt and Road initiative as an opportunity to strengthen these ties...

...and I am excited to see the progress that has already been made.

In January, for the first time, a freight train carried goods from Yiwu on the East China Sea along a 7,500 mile journey to East London...

...it passed through seven countries hauling thirty four containers of goods during its historic fifteen-day voyage...

...and, last week, it returned through Europe and central Asia to China, with containers full of British goods.

This is just one example of the opportunities that the Belt and Road initiative is delivering...

...from the 900 projects that are already underway – representing almost \$1

trillion of investment.

So my message today is clear:

As China drives forward the Belt and Road initiative from the East...

...we in Britain are a natural partner in the West...

...standing ready to work with all partner countries to make a success of this initiative...

...and delivering the jobs, growth and higher living standards that must be our central ambition for all of our citizens.

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## [News story: Ransomware: Guidance from The National Cyber Security Centre](#)

Latest guidance from the The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) about the 'WannaCry' malware.

Don't include personal or financial information like your National Insurance number or credit card details.

What you were doing  What went wrong

Send