

# Accommodation Fraud

## ACCOMMODATION FRAUD CAN BE AVOIDED BY:



- Being vigilant in relation to warning signs listed below.
- Proper organisation in relation to accommodation searching (It **will** take some time to find accommodation in Ireland. It is essential to allowing adequate time for this).
- Avoiding paying for any accommodation prior to visiting it and obtaining the details of the advertiser/landlord.

## RED FLAGS & WARNING SIGNS:

- If the rent seems too good to be true then it probably is. The competitiveness of the market is such that there is virtually no such thing as cheap accommodation, particularly in urban areas.
- The property is offered with no questions asked and payment is requested immediately before signing of a lease.
- The advertiser will only communicate via social media, claims to be unable to meet up (**for any reason**) or immediately refers you to someone else in relation to further dealings.
- Without being asked, the advertiser/landlord sends you their ID as proof of who they are.
- Being asked to pay money via a non-bank transfer (such as a wire transfer e.g. Western Union) or crypto. Similarly being asked to pay in cash should be considered a warning sign. **The majority of the time, those methods are done to avoid scrutiny and ensure that a transaction can't be reversed.**
- The listing contains grammar or spelling mistakes and/or there are very limited details or pictures of the property. Similarly, way too many details are provided and the advertisement looks like a template.
- The website looks suspicious and any payment portals are not secured.
- The country of the account you are paying into is a foreign account for an Irish property or just in a different country to where the accommodation is.

