

Operation Podium warns buyers of illegal ticket scams

Officers from the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) Operation Podium team are reminding buyers to be careful of unauthorised and illegal ticket scams as Paralympic tickets go on sale on Friday 9 September.

If you want to know your ticket is real follow Podium's simple advice to avoid being scammed, conned or having your personal details stolen.

Detective Chief Inspector Nick Downing, in charge of Operation Podium said: "We have already seen the demand for Olympic tickets which gives criminals greater opportunity to run scams, sell non existent tickets and even steal your personal and credit card details to use in other crimes.

"Now that Paralympic tickets are on sale, don't get caught out. Follow our simple and easy advice to make sure the ticket you buy is real. Tickets will be sold through your country's National Paralympic Committee or their authorised ticket retailer from 9 September. You should check the London 2012 ticketing website for details of who these are for your country."

As more and more ticket sales being done over the internet smart criminals know how easy it is to set up professional looking fake sites. Make sure you don't fall for them.

The advice includes some key checkpoints when buying a ticket for the Games.

The only secure way to buy a ticket is from the London 2012 ticketing website at www.tickets.london2012.com, or your country's National Olympic Committee or National Paralympic Committee. These details can be found on the official London 2012 ticketing website.

- Don't buy a ticket from an unauthorised website or tout. It may be a scam and you risk not getting the ticket you wanted and paid for. Your credit card details may also be stolen for use in other crimes.
- If you aren't sure whether the site is authorised to sell you a ticket, use the London 2012 website checker.
- If you buy a ticket you can no longer use, you can check whether it can be resold through the authorised ticket reseller you originally purchased the tickets from or via London 2012.
- There are three official providers for Games Breaks and Hospitality Packages:
Thomas Cook - www.thomascooklondon2012.com
Prestige Travel - www.prestigeticketing.london2012.com
Jet Set Travel - www.jetsetsports.com
- Travel packages will also be available for residents outside the UK through National Olympic Committees and National Paralympic Committees. Further details about official travel packages can be found on the London 2012 ticketing website.
- Always check the terms and conditions to see what you are being sold.
- There is specific legislation relating to the sale of tickets for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. If you find tickets for sale from any unauthorised source at anytime, don't buy them. They are not genuine. Report it to London 2012 via brandprotection@london2012.com

For full crime prevention advice on safe ways to buy your ticket visit the MPS website at www.met.police.uk/olympic_and_paralympic_games_policing