Romance Scams

Scammers establish fake romantic relationships with individuals through social media platforms, dating applications, messaging platforms or emails. They often use stolen photographs and fabricated identities, posing as military officers, businessmen or wealthy individuals to gain the trust of victims.

How the Scam Operates

- Scammers create fake identities and initiate relationships with individuals through online platforms.
- They may pose as military officers, businessmen or wealthy individuals, often using stolen photographs to make their identities appear genuine.
- They spend several weeks or months developing relationships with victims to gain their trust and confidence.
- Once trust is established, scammers begin requesting money by giving various reasons, such as:
  - Medical emergencies.
  - Travel expenses to visit the victim.
  - Visa processing fees.
  - Customs clearance charges.
- Victims are persuaded to provide money through bank transfers, money transfer services, gift card purchases or cryptocurrency transfers.
- In certain instances, scammers may also request permission to use the victims' personal bank accounts.
- Eventually, scammers may stop communicating, delete their social media accounts or dating application profiles, or continue requesting money until the victim realises that the relationship is fraudulent.