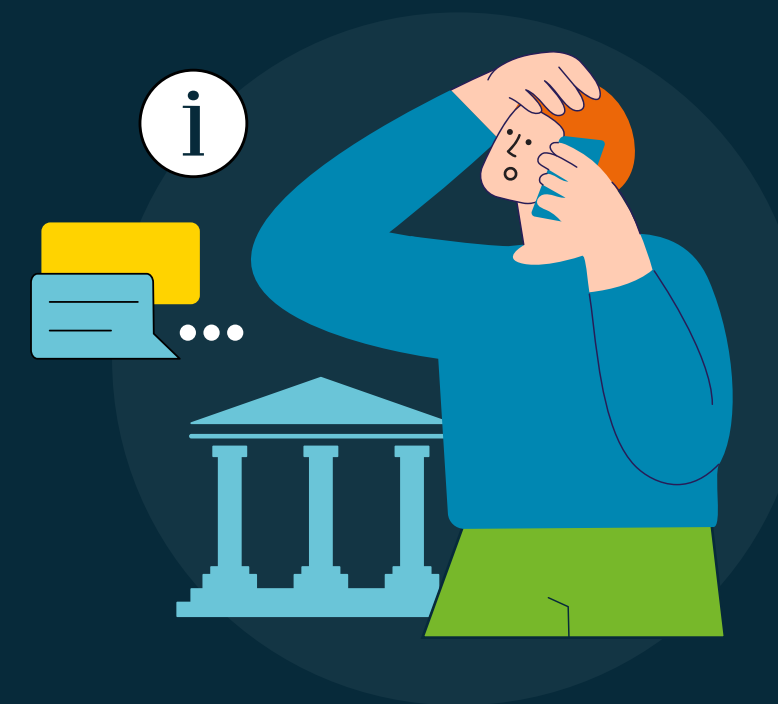
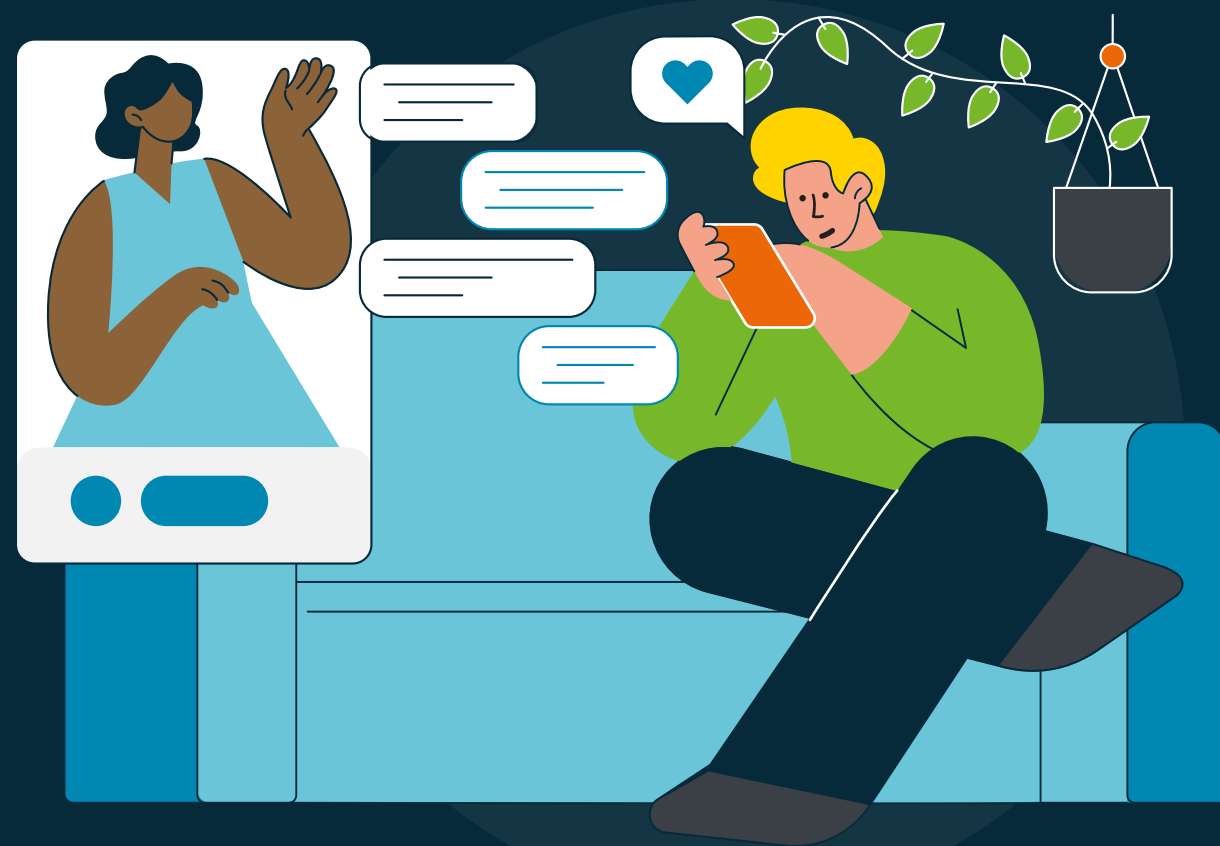


The celebrity trap

Alan's story of romance and recovery

Alan has **mental health conditions**, meaning he may be especially **vulnerable to scams**.

He received a **text** from someone **claiming to be a celebrity**, and soon believed they had begun a romantic relationship. The 'celebrity' **asked him for money** to keep a failing business afloat, and **he sent it**.



A friend of Alan's **became concerned**, and encouraged him to **contact his bank** – which he did.

He ended up sending a **total of six payments** to **two different people at different banks**, over Faster Payments. Although he got **on-screen warnings** for each payee, **none of the payments triggered** additional checks.



The 'celebrity', a **fraudster**, had coached Alan so that when **questions about the purpose of payment** came up, he would give an answer in a way that wouldn't **arouse suspicions**.



Alan got all his **£7,000 back**, with no excess applied because he was **deemed vulnerable**. Alan's **bank, the police, and his GP supported him throughout the process**.