

Staying safe after the Beacon incident



Many charities, including Include, use a computer system called **Beacon**.



Beacon is a **company** that **helps charities** to look after the **information** they have **about** their **members** (**data**).



On the **3rd August**, **Beacon** told us that **someone** got **into** their **system** without permission.



Sometimes **criminals** get into **computer systems** to **steal personal information**. Personal information is information about people, like their **address**, **email**, **phone number**.



We are **not sure** if the **criminals** looked at **people's** **information** or used it.



This **Easy Read** will **tell you** what **criminals** can do with **people's information** and **what to do next** to **keep** yourself **safe online**.

What you can do to stay safe online



Please change your passwords! Criminals can use people's information to try to guess their passwords. Safe passwords are long and hard to guess. For example, they can be **3 unrelated words** or a **mix of letters, numbers, and symbols**.



Please be very careful when someone contacts you by phone, email or letter. Always stop and check!



Criminals can use personal information like your name and address to pretend they are from places you can trust.



Do not click on any links and call the actual organisation's number to check the message, email or phone call is real.

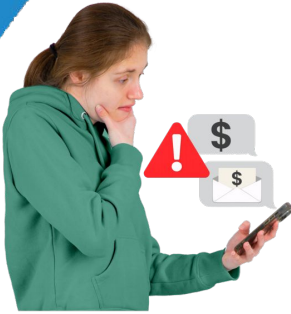


Always search online for the phone number of the place that contacted you. Sometimes criminals put a phone number to call on emails to trick you into calling their number and not the actual real number.



Ask for help when you need it or when you are not sure about something.

Learn more about being safe online



Learn more about **criminals pretending to be from places you can trust** with our **Easy Read** on “**Fake emails, calls and messages.**” To **get this Easy Read** go to

<https://include.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Online-Phone-Scams-Easy-Read-Include-.pptx.pdf>



You can **test how much you know** about **safe communication online** with our **online safety Easy Read quiz**. Just go to

<https://include.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Stay-Safe-Online-Quiz-Include.pptx.pdf>



Now you know a lot **more about being safe online**. You **can find** these **Easy Reads** and **others** on our **website** at www.include.org.



Do you **want to join us** and **learn more** about **Makaton** and **inclusive communication**?

Just email info@include.org or **connect** on **social media**.



You **can also call** us on **07918 470 190**.