

British traders aided by anti-credit card fraud scheme

Self help system counters information starvation

By Mike Magee: Friday 01 November 2002,10:13

CREDIT CARD FRAUD is putting big and small businesses out of business, with the police, politicians and even the mighty Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) unable or unwilling to put resources into combating the scam, the founder of a business-to-business Web site told the INQUIRER today. Andrew Goodwill, who said he founded the Early Warning web site, said that his site has been inundated by traders attempting to combat the skimming of cards and limited by the reluctance of the credit card companies to divulge details because they believe they're hogtied by the British Data Protection Act.

Goodwill said that the site, which currently is free of charge, allows members to post details of fraudulent transactions to each other. Details of dodgy numbers are auto-generated to database members who can then keep an eye open for potential frauds, he said. He said that his members included small, medium and large companies, many of which had no other way to prevent fraudulent card transactions.

The government has no figures on the amount of credit card frauds in the UK because, claimed Goodwill, when a fraud is discovered it has to be reported to local police forces which do not compile figures for any central organization.

While the service is currently free of charge, and founded by Goodwill because he suffered from fraud himself, he said that the firm was contemplating introducing a subscription fee early next year of £40 plus VAT.

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01/11/2002