

The complaint

Mr D complains that Revolut Ltd hasn't protected him from losing money to a fraud.

What happened

The background to this complaint is well known to both parties, so I won't repeat everything here. In brief summary, Mr D has explained that from August 2022 to October 2023 he made numerous payments from his Revolut account as a result of scammers. Ultimately, Revolut didn't reimburse Mr D's lost funds, and Mr D referred his complaint about Revolut to us. As our Investigator couldn't resolve the matter informally, the case has been passed to me for a decision.

What I've decided – and why

I've considered all the available evidence and arguments to decide what's fair and reasonable in the circumstances of this complaint.

Having done so, I've decided to not uphold Mr D's complaint for materially the same reasons as our Investigator.

First, let me say, if Mr D has been scammed, he has my sympathy. Ultimately, however, if this is the case, Mr D has suffered his loss because of fraudsters, and this doesn't automatically entitle him to a refund from Revolut. It would only be fair for me to tell Revolut to reimburse Mr D his loss (or part of it) if I thought Revolut reasonably ought to have prevented the payments (or some of them) in the first place, or Revolut unreasonably hindered recovery of the funds after the payments had been made; and if I was satisfied, overall, this was a fair and reasonable outcome.

I'm satisfied Mr D authorised the relevant payments. Revolut would generally be expected to process payments a customer authorises it to make. And under The Payment Services Regulations and the terms and conditions of the account, Mr D is presumed liable for the loss in the first instance, in circumstances where he authorised the payments. That said, as a matter of good industry practice Revolut should have taken proactive steps to identify and help prevent transactions – particularly sufficiently unusual or uncharacteristic transactions – that could involve fraud or be the result of a scam. However, there are many payments made by customers each day and it's not realistic or reasonable to expect Revolut to stop and check every payment instruction. There's a balance to be struck between identifying payments that could potentially be fraudulent, and minimising disruption to legitimate payments (allowing customers ready access to their funds).

Here, having reviewed Mr D's account and the payments he said he made as a result of fraud, I'm not persuaded Revolut ought to have found any of the payments sufficiently suspicious such that it ought to have made further enquiries of Mr D before processing them. I accept that the payments were to crypto providers. With regards to the payments made in 2022, however, I don't think Revolut ought to have automatically treated them as suspicious or as warranting attention. When Mr D's account was opened, one of the stated purposes for it was "crypto". The payments were not of sufficient size; and the payments, individually or

collectively, spaced as they were, were not of the type that I could reasonably expect Revolut to have been concerned about them. And I think, like our Investigator, that even if Revolut had given Mr D a general warning, this wouldn't have been called for in 2023 given the spacing and low amounts the payments were for, and in 2022 I think it's unlikely this would have made a difference given the circumstances here. This means I can't fairly say Revolut unreasonably failed to prevent the payments, or that it should be held responsible for Mr D having made and lost them.

The only potential avenue to have recovered debit card payments like this, after they were made, would have been via the chargeback scheme. However, Mr D made the payments to the crypto exchanges (and not directly to the scammers). This means the merchant here, for chargeback purposes, would be the crypto exchanges (and not the scammers). The crypto exchanges would have legitimately provided the services intended. Any subsequent transfer of the cryptocurrency onto the scammers would not give rise to valid chargeback claims through Revolut. So I don't think these payments were reasonably recoverable through Revolut once they had been made.

I'm sorry if Mr D was scammed and lost this money. But despite my natural sympathy, I can't fairly tell Revolut to reimburse him in circumstances where I'm not persuaded it reasonably ought to have prevented the payments or to have recovered them.

My final decision

For the reasons explained, I don't uphold this complaint.

Under the rules of the Financial Ombudsman Service, I'm required to ask Mr D to accept or reject my decision before 7 July 2025.

Neil Bridge
Ombudsman