As many residents within Thames Valley area will be setting their alarms for an early start tomorrow in preparation for the launch of the Oasis reunion tour tickets, Detective Inspector Duncan Wynn of the Central Fraud Unit is offering some essential advice to ensure nobody must 'Look Back in Anger' at being targeted with ticket fraud...

"With the long-awaited news of Oasis reforming for 17 dates across the UK and Ireland next year, there will be an understandable desire for many fans to obtain tickets.

This sadly creates an opportunity for fraudsters to exploit the public by leading them to believe they have successfully purchased tickets when people will only be left out of pocket with no tickets or gig to look forward to.

If you plan to try to get hold of any type of event ticket, my top tips are:

- Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, the promoter, an official agent, or a well-known and reputable ticket exchange site
- Watch out for fraudsters selling fake tickets there is no 'Definitely Maybe' about it, this WILL be happening
- Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud
- The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords. Use three random words to create a strong and memorable password, and <u>Setting up 2-Step</u> <u>Verification (2SV) - NCSC.GOV.UK</u>
- Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets
- If you are expecting an email after applying for pre-sale tickets, do not assume an email is genuine as fraudsters can spoof email addresses to make them appear from genuine senders. Phishing attempts can be forwarded to report@phishing.gov.uk

- Be wary of clicking on unverified links which can result in your personal details being compromised and/or the download of a malicious file or virus
- Is the vendor a member of STAR (Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers)? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information visit <u>Star Ticket Buying Guide</u>

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud online at <u>Action Fraud</u> or by calling 0300 123 2040, or call Police Scotland on 101.

Further advice can be found at <u>Ticket fraud | Action Fraud</u> and <u>How to buy tickets, avoid scams and get a refund if the gig is cancelled</u>

Remember, fraudsters will always be focusing on 'The Masterplan' and 'Little by Little' they will be expecting the public to 'Acquiesce' to their tactics.

I urge you to 'stand by me' and 'talk tonight' by helping spread this message to keep disappointment at bay and finances safe."