

Online consumers warned to lo out for fake Irish websites post Brexit



By **Ali Condon** - 03/02/2021

Irish consumers have been warned by the European Commission (ECC) to keep an eye out for fake Irish websites when shopping online.

A month has passed since the EU-UK withdrawal agreement came into play and many Irish consumers are being hit with customs charges on their deliveries as a result.

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The ECC encourages Irish shoppers to exercise caution when browsing online, as many '.ie' website domains are not based in Ireland.



Irish consumers have been warned by the European Consumer Commission to keep an eye out for fake Irish websites when shopping online. Pic: Shutterstock

Speaking on RTE Radio One, ECC Director Dr Cyril Siobhán Ó Súilleabháin warned that seeing '.ie' in the website name does not guarantee that the business or trader is based in Ireland.

He added that of the 400 complaints that the ECC had received, almost half were related to UK traders and issues linked to Brexit.



The ECC encourages Irish shoppers to exercise caution when browsing online. '.ie' website domains are not actually based in Ireland. Pic: Nicky Loh/Bloor/Getty Images



When shopping online post-Brexit, the ECC recommends a number of tips to avoid the shock of a serious tax or customs charge. Pic: Getty

‘On top of that if there are returns to be done you then have to pay for returns. If there is a large item delivered to your door and you have to incur costs as part of the terms and conditions in terms of the transaction you could find yourself heavy

When shopping online post-Brexit, the ECC recommends a number of tips to avoid the shock of a serious tax or customs charge.

These include using a payment method such as PayPal so that transactions can be traced if there is a problem after purchase, ensuring that the website is secure, and double-checking

One website that has seen Irish customers slapped with charges has been Amazon UK. However, the website is reportedly finalising plans to open a facility in Dublin in which staff will pick and package items for delivery.