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Bank clerk in £1million bugged computer scam faces prison



Fraud: bank clerk Hans Paterson-Mensah (Picture:Central News)

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JOSH PETTIT

A NatWest bank clerk who used a bug to hide a £1 million scam is facing an "almost inevitable" prison sentence.

Customer service adviser Hans Paterson-Mensah, 24, allowed a fraudster to attach the device to the computer system at his branch in Staines.

This allowed Paterson-Mensah to make fictional deposits totalling £1,089,000 into 15 genuine customer accounts, from which he then made cash withdrawals.

He was arrested after NatWest staff spotted the suspicious activity and stopped it before all of the money was taken.

Paterson-Mensah, of Hounslow, denied one count of fraud by abuse of position — saying he let the man into the bank because he wanted to open an account — but was convicted after a trial at the Old Bailey.

The judge, Mr Recorder Nicholas Valios QC, granted him conditional bail until sentencing on December 20.

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"You should be under no illusions that having regards to the seriousness of your offence and your position at the bank at the time, that the almost inevitable consequence is going to be a period of custody," the judge said.

The court heard that Paterson-Mensah was caught on CCTV taking a man into an interview room during working hours and leaving him there on both the days the computers were compromised: August 24 and September 8.

Prosecutor Usha Shergill said: "What this allowed to happen is that fictional deposits were put into legitimate customers' accounts at the branch... The purpose was for the perpetrator to withdraw the money from the account and it would be the bank that would lose out."

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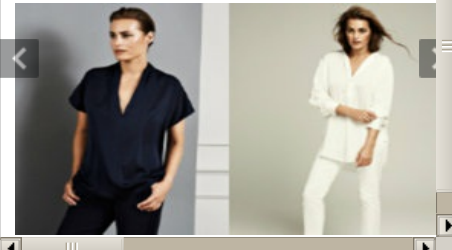


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