

Suspected scam with an RV8 offered for sale on eBay



Geoff Coley report "I have become aware of a scam on the internet involving an RV8 offered for sale on eBay. An advert first appeared on eBay on 29th February 2012 and quoted a Buy Now price if an email was sent to ARZ123@gmail.com which was sent. Within two hours the advert disappeared from eBay. To see what happened I did contact ARZ123 and got a response that due to personal circumstances, the "sell now" price was £2,800 and the car was an Oxford Blue RV8 with 61,863 miles on the clock. I asked for photos and they were duly sent to me showing the car as a UK market spec Oxford Blue RV8 with the registration number L907 DPB. The seller was "Joe Barlow" and the car was claimed to be located in Dundee. So far so good - a very cheap RV8!

I was asked to pay for the car via bank transfer to an eBay "Purchase Protection Program" following the issue of a genuine looking eBay Invoice - except it didn't have my eBay registered name on it. So I was suspicious and used the eBay help Chat button on that invoice and exchanged information with the supposed eBay Chatline operative. Again, I asked why my eBay registered name was not being used and this was ignored, so I declined to go any further and withdrew. After "Joe Barlow" sent me another bogus eBay buy now document, which like the invoice sent earlier and the Help Chatline, did not check out with eBay Inc. themselves when I spoke to them.

I have to say that up to that point the whole thing looked plausible, but I would like to make sure that that fellow V8 Register members are aware of this likely scam. Any emails and other documentation I received during my contact with this seller have been forwarded to eBay so they are also aware.

Geoff Coley later added "I reported it to Tayside Police Friday and intend to do the same with Norfolk Police tomorrow. I have seen a photo of this car and recall the car was featured somewhere in the V8 Register site some ten years ago. I think it was perhaps one of the photos in the RV8 Workshop Notes CD. The DVLA show the car as untaxed and duty due since August 2010 and it's not on SORN. An HPI check shows one previous owner and the last change being 2002. Another thing which made me suspicious was the seller could not or would not quote a VIN number for the car."

Later Geoff sent a copy of the "eBay invoice" he received from the seller "**Joe Barlow**" but on examining the "invoice" the payment section showed a beneficiary (which was not Joe Barlow) at a branch of Barclays Bank in northwest London.

eBay send this message to Geoff Coley.
Your registered name is visible to view the message imported from eBay.

Your invoice for eBay Purchase - 1993 MG RV8 Oxford Blue Sports/Convertible

Dear Geoff Coley,

Thank you for your purchase! You are receiving this email because the vehicle you are going to buy using eBay is included in the Purchase Protection program. The eBay Purchase Protection program provides protection up to £10,000.00 against certain losses associated with some types of fraud. You are automatically enrolled in the program at no charge because you are completing the purchase of an eligible vehicle on the eBay site. eBay requires the payment to be done through Bank Transfer service to a verified account managed by eBay Inc. eBay reduces the potential risk of fraud by acting as a trusted third party that collects, holds and disburses funds according to Buyer's and Seller's instructions. eBay recommends this service to make sure buyer's information is secure and they receive what they've paid for. eBay guarantees the legitimacy and the security of this transaction. Please follow our instructions to complete the transaction safely.

How to complete payment?

- Send the payment to eBay's Representative Bank Account (found below) by following our exact guidelines.
- Once the payment was sent to the eBay's Representative Bank Account, confirm it with us by sending us a fax copy of the receipt/statement from your bank which shows that the payment was sent.
- Save the bank receipt/statement.

Case ID: 217929812853
Status: Payment Pending
Item Title: 1993 MG RV8 Oxford Blue Sports/Convertible
Buy Now Price: £2,800.00
Insurance: Yes
Buyer: Geoff Coley

Buyer: Geoff Coley

Delivery to*:
Geoff Coley

*Please check the address for an accurate delivery in order to avoid delays.

Payment must be submitted via bank transfer to eBay's Representative Bank Account assigned for this transaction. eBay will secure the payment until the Buyer receives, inspects and accepts the vehicle. Or, if it is the case, eBay will refund the payment to the Buyer.

*** It is recommended NOT to use Online Banking when sending the payment.**
*** The payment has to be sent by Bank Transfer from your Bank Account to our Representative's Bank Account specified below. For a faster transaction and a faster clearance of your funds, please send the payment by using a CHAPS transfer from your bank. Consult your bank or financial institution for more information about how to complete a CHAPS transfer. Your bank may charge additional fees but the transfer will clear in the same working day it was sent - this will speed up your transaction.**
*** Use as Payment Details on your CHAPS transfer your name "Geoff Coley". Please do not write anything else because we will not be able to confirm your payment.**

eBay's Representative Bank Account:

Bank's Name: Barclays Bank	
Account Number: [REDACTED]	Invoice #: 217929812853
Sort Code: 20-92-63	Price: £2,800.00
Beneficiary: [REDACTED]	Delivery: £150.00
Bank's Address: 260 Preston Road Harlow, Middlesex HA3 0PZ United Kingdom	Total: £2,950.00

If you need more help please click below to Chat with an eBay Live Help agent.

So check carefully for possible scammers when buying or selling a car.