Government Security

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Cracking

'Cracking' is a technique that cybercriminals use to guess your passwords to commit crimes and cause damage.

Weak passwords can be cracked in seconds. The longer and more unusual your password is, the harder it is for a cyber criminal to crack.

A good way to make your password difficult to crack is by combining three random words to create a password (for example applepinkbiro). Or you could use a password manager, which can create strong passwords for you (and remember them).

Avoid the most common passwords that criminals can easily guess (like 'password'). You should also avoid creating passwords from significant dates (like your birthday, or a loved one's), or from your favourite sports team, or by using family and pet names. Most of these details can be found within your social media profile.

Passwords generated from three random words is a good way to create unique passwords that are 'long enough' and 'strong enough' for most purposes, but which can also be remembered much more easily. If you want to write your password down, that's also OK, provided you keep it somewhere safe.

Follow this link to **Read more about the logic behind using 3 random words**

Or for more advice on how to stay secure online visit the National Cyber Security Centres **Cyber Aware** pages

Always report any suspected access breaches by following your department's security protocols.