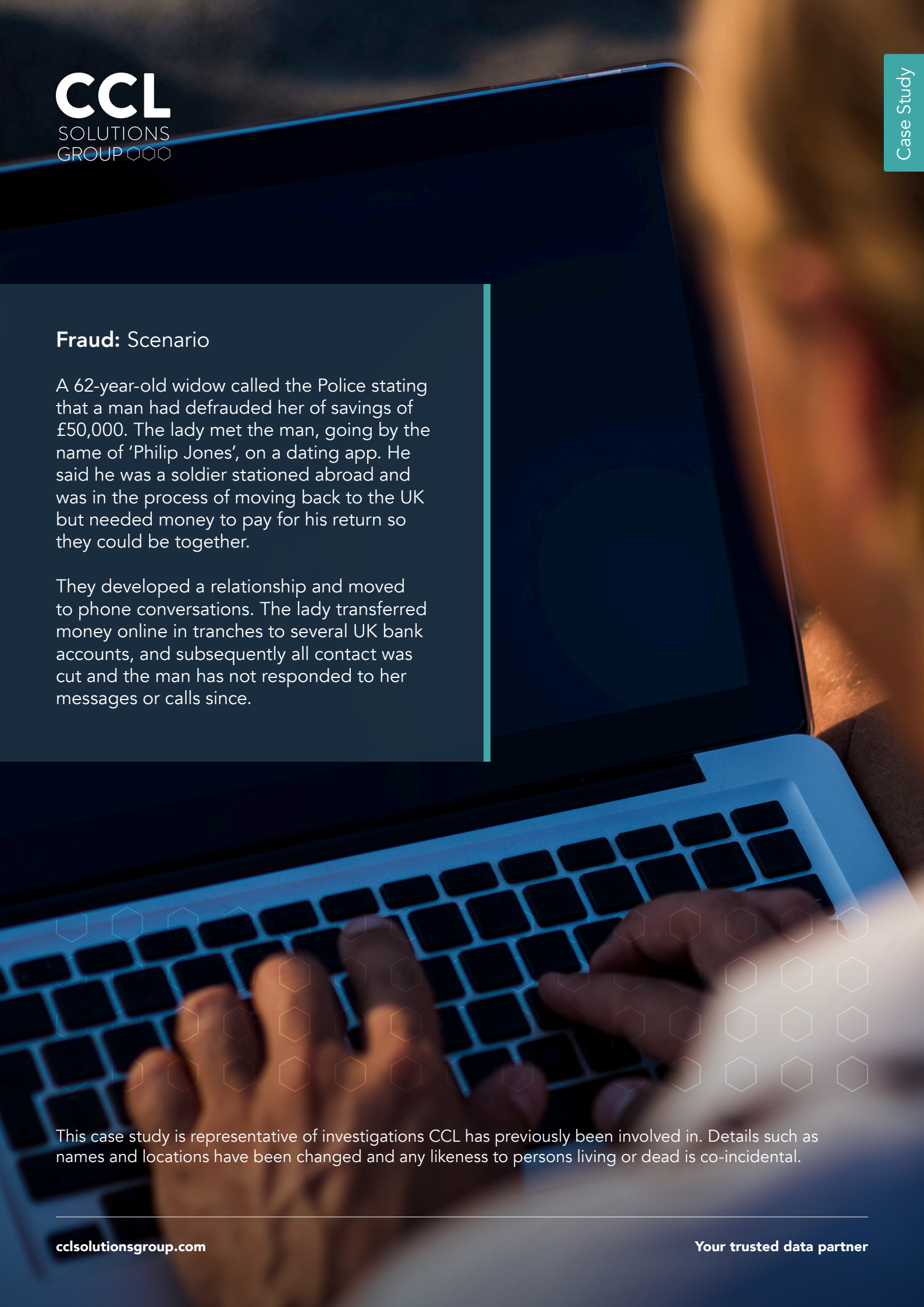
CCL SOLUTIONS GROUP

Case Study

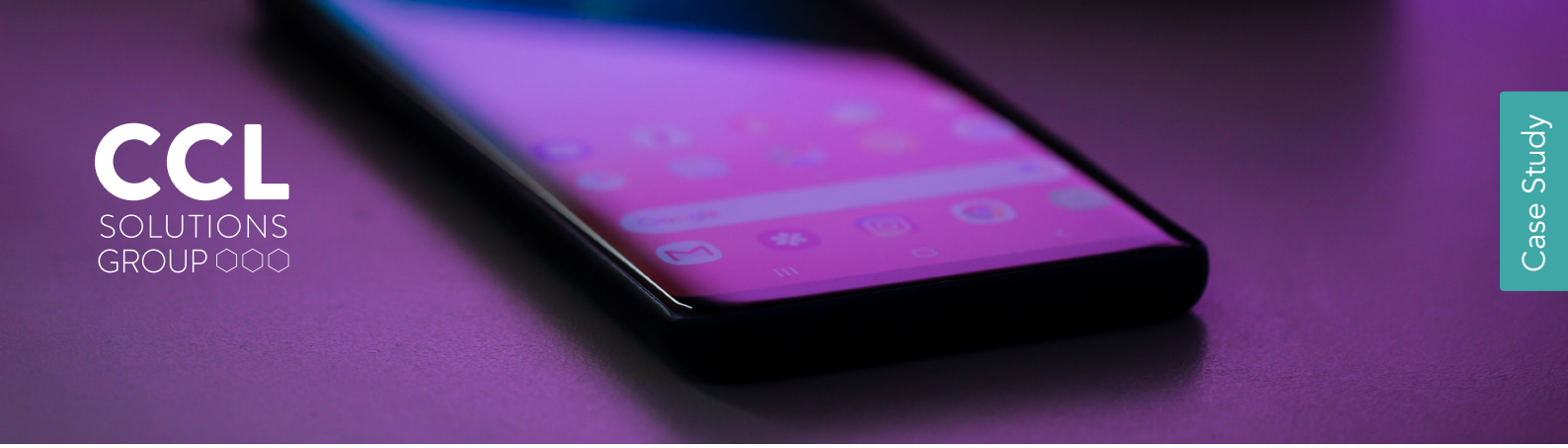
Fraud: Scenario

A 62-year-old widow called the Police stating that a man had defrauded her of savings of £50,000. The lady met the man, going by the name of 'Philip Jones', on a dating app. He said he was a soldier stationed abroad and was in the process of moving back to the UK but needed money to pay for his return so they could be together.

They developed a relationship and moved to phone conversations. The lady transferred money online in tranches to several UK bank accounts, and subsequently all contact was cut and the man has not responded to her messages or calls since.



This case study is representative of investigations CCL has previously been involved in. Details such as names and locations have been changed and any likeness to persons living or dead is co-incidental.



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At the scene

Investigators identified the suspect's real name and address, as one of the phone numbers he had used was registered to him at a UK address.

A warrant to search his address was obtained and a computer and three mobile phones found. A digital forensics practitioner at the scene helped ensure mobile devices were turned to aeroplane mode to ensure they could not be wiped remotely, passcodes were sought, and if encryption present on any devices. They were then seized.

The Investigation

- The mobile phones and computer were sent to a digital forensic laboratory for analysis.
- Mobile device analysts found contact between victim and suspect, and also contact with other potential victims.
- Web browsing history identified several online banking websites were visited. Further checks with these banks revealed account information which financial investigators used to identify transfers made to Spanish accounts.
- Email account identified and messages recovered showing communication between suspect and real estate agents in Spain relating to the purchase of a property.

Outcome

- Several other victims were identified and similar investigations were undertaken.

- The suspect was convicted of a total of five fraud offences following trial.

The Spanish property was identified and subsequently seized, sold, and some compensation was provided to the victims.

Digital Insights

Messages and attachments, including those that were deleted, were extracted from apps on the phones and sent to investigators.

Phone records were requested from the mobile operators to capture call records.

Web browsing history records extracted from devices and made reviewable to investigators.

Messages from cloud-based email account forensically extracted.