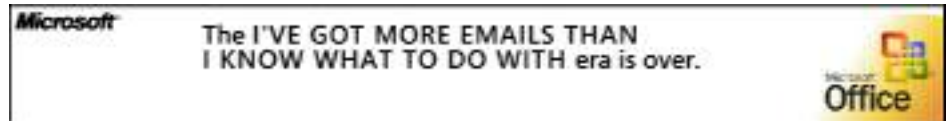


[Sign in](#) · [Register](#)Go to: [Read today's paper](#) · [Jobs](#)Search: Guardian Unlimited Web**football** World Cup 2006[World Cup home](#) [Blog](#) [Fixtures and tables](#) [Podcast](#) [The Fiver](#) [Fantasy Fussball](#) [Daily quiz](#) [Party kits](#) [Mor](#)

A	GER	CRI	B	ENG	PAR	C	ARG	IVC	D	MEX	IRN
	POL	ECU		TRI	SWE		SER	HOL		ANG	POR
E	ITA	GHA	F	BRA	CRO	G	FRA	SWI	H	SAU	SPA
	USA	CZE		AUS	JPN		SKO	TOG		TUN	UKR



3pm update

Police investigate schools 'ticket scam'

Staff and agencies
Monday June 19, 2006**Tools**

- [Text-only version](#)
- [Send it to a friend](#)
- [Save story](#)

Several hundred British schoolchildren expecting to watch World Cup games in Germany have returned home disappointed after a suspected ticket fraud.

Roughly 350 children, aged 11 to 15, were supposed to have been watching one of a series of World Cup games at the weekend but were left without tickets.

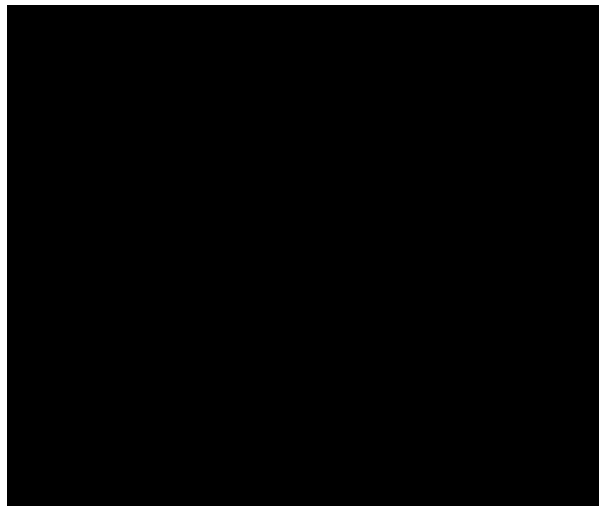
Activ4, the Shrewsbury-based travel agency specialising in school sports packages, which organised the children's trips, said police in Britain and Germany were investigating what appeared to be an "international ticket scam".



The travel agency believes it was the victim of an international ticket scam. Photograph: Scott Barbour/Getty



Article continues™



A spokesman for the company said about 350 children were taking the packages to Germany, costing nearly £400 a head and including tickets to games which were meant to have been supplied by a Kent-based agency but never materialised.

"It is with great regret that our business and therefore our customers have been made victims of an international ticket scam," the spokesman said.

The problem emerged when Activ4's bank raised concerns, he said, and the bad news was passed on to the school parties.

"Activ4 is outraged by this callous act of fraud and will continue to offer the police our full cooperation in their respective investigations," the spokesman added.

Kent Police said that an investigation into an allegation of obtaining property by deception had been launched, involving an agency in the county.

A group of boys from Mayville High School in Portsmouth travelled to Cologne to see the Czech Republic play Ghana on Saturday, but were told by Activ4 that the tickets were not available.

They were then told to travel to Frankfurt for the Portugal-Iran match on the same day, but before they departed were informed there were no tickets for this match either.

Linda Owens, head teacher at the school, said her pupils were "devastated".

"The children have been looking forward to this a great deal and it's a huge disappointment for them," she said.

"I felt gutted. We had been looking forward to it for ages," added 13-year-old pupil Nathan Sked.

Portchester Boys School in Bournemouth, Dorset, sent boys on a £410-a-head tour to Germany, but were unable to watch Portugal take on Iran as planned. "They were not able to go to the match as it appears the tickets were from a doubtful source," said head teacher Christopher Bradey.



The head teacher of a third school, Drayton School in Banbury, Oxfordshire, said German police were investigating what happened to their tickets, also meant to be for the Czech Republic versus Ghana.

Full coverage[World Cup 2006](#)**Join the debate**[Our World Cup blog](#)

[Privacy policy](#) | [Terms & conditions](#) | [Advertising guide](#) | [A-Z index](#) | [About this site](#)

Guardian Unlimited © Guardian Newspapers Limited 2006