

Alert 1 - PHISHING EMAIL TV LICENSING



The emails purporting to be from TV Licensing claim that the recipient's direct debit has failed and that they need to pay to avoid prosecution. Recipients are told that they are eligible for a "COVID19 Personalized Offer" of six months free. The messages contain links to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal personal and financial information.

Alert 2 HMRC Phishing Email

CIFAS (the UK's leading fraud prevention organisation) are warning of a new HMRC scam. This scam appears to be specifically targeting people who are out of work or working less due to coronavirus, and is offering £1,000s in grants. The recipient is told to click on a link to check their eligibility, and answer questions that are designed to steal personal information. CIFAS are stating that this scam comes from the email address "HMRC@hotmail.com", but as new frauds spring up every day, this could change.

Alert 3 – HMRC Phishing Email

The below is another HMRC phishing that was recently received by a resident in Kent. As you can see the email address that this was sent from was not an official GOV.UK email address.

From: self-assessment-tax-refund-payment-id-5822christophe.vandesande@telenet.be <self-assessment-tax-refund-payment-id-5822christophe.vandesande@telenet.be>
Sent: 04 June 2020 13:53
To: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Subject: Refund Tax - Online Payment -



Your Government Gateway account has been created

Dear ghow_ton@hotmail.com,

We would like to notify you that you still have an outstanding tax refund of 503.21 GBP from overpaid tax from year ending 2018, despite our previous letters regarding your refund we are yet to receive your claim. Requests for refunds are time limited please use the link below to complete your claim online also note the following:

[Start Claim](#)

Reference No: 181811/TAX4709-UKnkbcu
We can only process a refund for the tax year we have detailed above
You have until the 06/04/2020 to make your claim.

Alert 4 – Bereavement scams – From CIFAS

Although I am not aware of this in Kent, CIFAS have stated that elsewhere around the country, fraudsters are targeting families organising funerals for loved ones by contacting them and purporting to be from their local authority's bereavement services team and asking them for credit card details to pay their funeral director. These criminals are then putting families under pressure by telling them that the funeral will be cancelled if they don't pay immediately. As a result, a number of councils put out urgent warnings this week on their social media channels warning about the threat.

Anyone receiving this type of call should hang up immediately and report the incident to Action Fraud.

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Please remember the following advice -

Take Five -

Stop - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

Challenge - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Protect - Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

And use our own A, B, C of scam awareness:

A- Never **Assume** a caller, email or text is genuine.

B- Never **Believe** a caller, email or text is genuine.

C- Always **Confirm** by contacting a trusted number, family member, friend, your bank's fraud department or the police to check if it's genuine.

Report scams at www.actionfraud.police.uk

Phishing emails can be forwarded to report@phishing.gov.uk