

Current scams

Here are a few of the current scams in circulation nationally and internationally:

- Door-to-door scam where a visitor claims to be from the Health Authority to test you for Covid-19.
You do not have to open your door to anyone you don't know and aren't expecting.
- Telephone scam where someone claiming to work for the police, hospital, a bank or other service cold calls and says they are raising money or require payment for a local cause or service.
Never respond to an unexpected call by giving away cash, cards, PINs, bank details or personal information – no matter how tempting or convincing the caller may seem.
- Text scam disguised as an alert from HMRC, offering a goodwill payment during the current Covid-19 situation if you click on a link and provide personal and bank details.
Never click a link or give out your bank details or personal information in response to an unsolicited email or text – no matter how tempting or convincing the message may seem.
- Text scam claiming to be from Gov.uk, which says you have been recorded and fined for leaving your home during an isolation period, and asks you to click a link for more details.
Never respond to unexpected emails, click on links or attachments, or provide bank details or personal information – no matter how tempting or convincing the message may seem.
- Online shopping scam offering protective equipment including face masks, hand sanitiser and other products which never arrive.
Only use reputable websites that you know and trust, make sure you see a padlock symbol when making a purchase, and where possible use a credit card which has insurance for online payments.
- Text and email scams claiming to be from HMRC, saying you are eligible for a tax refund.
Never click a link or give out your bank details or personal information in response to an unsolicited email or text – no matter how tempting or convincing the message may seem.

Remember:

- Never **assume** or **believe** a message or offer is genuine – always **confirm** by contacting a trusted number or team like Action Fraud, a family member, friend or your bank's fraud department to check.
- Report scams at **www.actionfraud.police.uk** – and contact your bank's fraud team straight away if any money or bank details have been handed over.
- Get the latest scam advice by following **@KentPoliceECU** or **@Kent_Police** on twitter.



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