

# Kent Fraud Alert System



## New HMRC Text Message Scam

**TO STOP FRAUD™**

HMRC have issued a fraud alert after being made aware of increasing numbers of people receiving text messages impersonating HMRC and stating that due to Covid19 they have a tax rebate pending. They are being directed to click on a link in order to ascertain the level of their rebate. Please do not click any links, as this is a scam.

You can report this and any other HMRC scams by going to the following link -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs/contact/reporting-fraudulent-emails>

At the end of the day if it is too good to be true, then it probably is.

 **HM Revenue & Customs**  @HMRCgovuk · 22h

 **WARNING** 

We've detected a new text scam targeting the public which says 'due to the current COVID-19 pandemic you have a pending tax rebate'. DO NOT click on the link to calculate your claim. This is a SCAM.

Report anything suspicious here:  
[gov.uk/government/org...](https://www.gov.uk/government/org...)



## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



### Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest  
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



**Kent  
Police**

## Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](https://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](https://www.kent.police.uk/contact)  
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**  
If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

[www.kent.police.uk](https://www.kent.police.uk)



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## PayPal Phishing Emails

The following is an alert issued by National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, City of London Police. Please take note of this, as with Covid, the lockdown and Christmas fast approaching, more people will be purchasing goods on line and would urge you to be extra vigilant at this time.

“There have been 21,349 Action Fraud reports featuring fake PayPal phishing emails recorded between January to September 2020, with a total reported loss of £7,891,077.

Online marketplace sellers have received a fake email that appears to be from PayPal, stating that the fraudster has made a payment for an item. A follow up email requests the shipping tracking order reference, prompting the seller to dispatch the item. The fraudster relies on the seller not verifying that the payment has been received in their PayPal account, before shipping the item leaving the seller at a loss.

The reporting to Action Fraud does not suggest that PayPal are implicated or complicit in any fraud, either directly or indirectly; the use of a popular brand may be exploited by fraudsters to commit fraud.

## **What you need to do**

**Verify the payment:** If you're selling goods on an online marketplace, such as eBay, don't post the item to the buyer until you have verified, using the official app or website, that the payment is in your account.

**Report suspicious emails:** If you've received an email you're not quite sure about, you can report it by forwarding it to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

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