



17 January 2025 at 09:52

Community Alert: Beware of HMRC Tax Scams!

As the January tax deadline approaches, scammers are on the prowl, targeting individuals with fraudulent messages posing as HMRC. Here's how to stay safe and protect yourself from falling victim to these scams:

How Do These Scams Appear?

Scammers use various methods to trick you into handing over personal information or money:

Emails: Fake messages claiming you're due a tax refund or owe taxes.

Text Messages (SMS): Urgent alerts with links to "secure portals" or fake payment sites.

Phone Calls: Threats of legal action or arrest if immediate payment isn't made.

Social Media: Direct messages or ads pretending to be from HMRC.

How to Spot a Scam

Keep an eye out for these warning signs:

Urgency: Messages demanding immediate action, such as paying a fine or clicking a link.

Unusual Requests: HMRC will never ask for payment via gift cards, cryptocurrency, or vouchers.

Poor Grammar/Spelling: Authentic communications from HMRC are professional and error-free.

Suspicious Links: Look out for fake URLs—hover over links before clicking or verify them independently.

Caller ID Spoofing: Even if a phone number appears genuine, it could be fake. HMRC rarely contacts people by phone without prior notice.

How to Stay Safe

Never share your personal or financial information with unverified sources.

Always log into your HMRC account directly via their official website

Avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails or texts.

Report Scams

If you suspect a scam:

Forward emails to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk.

Forward texts to 7726

Report scam calls to **Action Fraud** at 0300 123 2040 or online via their website.

Stay vigilant, share this alert with your community, and help keep everyone safe this tax season! If in doubt, contact HMRC directly using their official contact details.

Stay safe and scam-aware!