

Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

Puppy Scams linked to Gift card payments

Be on the lookout for criminals advertising puppies or kittens for sale and requesting payment via Gift Card vouchers. They will state that you need to send them the gift card voucher codes as payment prior to collecting the animal.

How to protect yourself -

- Do your research: if you are making a purchase from a website or person you do not know and trust, conduct some research first. Look up reviews of the website or person from whom you are buying. If you are purchasing an item from an online marketplace, you can view the seller's feedback history before going ahead with the purchase.
- Trust your instincts: if you are unable to view the animal in person, ask for a video call. If you are buying a young animal, make sure you can see the mother and rest of the litter. Any responsible seller will understand why you want to view the animal in person. If the seller declines, challenge them on why. If you have any suspicions, do not pay any money until you are certain it's genuine.
- Choose your payment method wisely: avoid paying by bank transfer or Gift Cards. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering your money if you become a victim of fraud.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Preventing fraud

Together,
let's stop
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 never Assume

 never Believe

 always Confirm



**Paws for thought
when buying a
pet online**

Paws for thought when buying a pet online. Research the seller carefully, and avoid buying from anyone who asks you to pay by bank transfer.

Find out more:
actionfraud.police.uk/petfraud

ActionFraud
National Fraud Reporting Centre
www.actionfraud.police.uk

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at [Advice about fraud](#) | [Kent Police](#)



**Kent
Police**

Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.

Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.

www.kent.police.uk   

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Ticket Fraud – football

For those of you who love football be wary of too good to be true offers for football tickets for the premier league or other games.

We have had reports recently of people buying tickets via online marketplaces and sending their money via bank transfer or supplying Gift Card voucher numbers, only to never receive anything in return.

How to protect yourself ticket scams -

Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent or a well-known ticketing website.

If you are buying football tickets, be aware that it is illegal to re-sell football tickets under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act in most instances.

Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.

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Bank Impersonations

These types of offences are on the rise. They will invariably start with the caller claiming to be the investigations department from your bank and they will confirm some basic details with you, like your name, address, date of birth etc. They will then claim that there is some sort of problem with your existing account and that they have set up a safe new account for you to transfer your money into.

However, it is all a scam and once the money is transferred, the criminals will quickly empty this account.

Always remember that your bank, the police or any genuine organisation or company will never ask you to move money to protect it, under any circumstances. They will also never ask you to download something onto your computer or other device.

Apply the protect principle of ABC and Never Assume or Believe a call is genuine and always Confirm. So, take their details and then disconnect the call. Then using another phone other than the one you were called on, call your Bank via using 159. If you do not have access to another phone, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friend, a voice you know, to ensure that the line has been disconnected and then ring your Bank.

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HMRC Scam Emails

Watch out for these fake email impersonating HMRC. Action Fraud have received over 700 reports of these from across the UK this month.

The email will state that you are eligible for a tax refund and you need to click on a link to claim this. However, it is a SCAM and you will be directed to a realistic looking website where criminals will steal your personal and financial data.

You can report these by forwarding to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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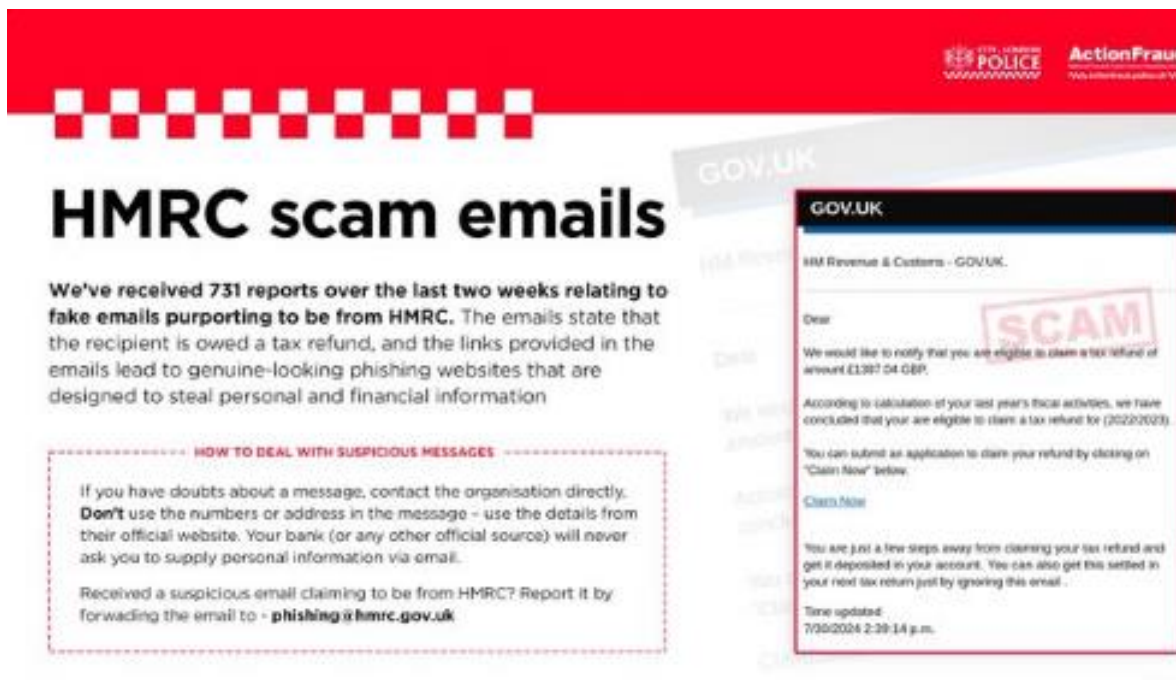


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The image shows a red banner at the top with the Kent Police and Action Fraud logos. Below it is a screenshot of an email titled 'HMRC scam emails'. The email content includes: 'We've received 731 reports over the last two weeks relating to fake emails purporting to be from HMRC. The emails state that the recipient is owed a tax refund, and the links provided in the emails lead to genuine-looking phishing websites that are designed to steal personal and financial information'. A dashed box contains the text: 'HOW TO DEAL WITH SUSPICIOUS MESSAGES: If you have doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. Don't use the numbers or address in the message - use the details from their official website. Your bank (or any other official source) will never ask you to supply personal information via email. Received a suspicious email claiming to be from HMRC? Report it by forwarding the email to - phishing@hmrc.gov.uk'. To the right is a screenshot of a phishing email from 'HM Revenue & Customs - GOV.UK' with a large red 'SCAM' stamp. The email text says: 'Dear [Name], We would like to notify that you are eligible to claim a tax refund of amount £1387.04 GBP. According to calculation of your last year's fiscal activities, we have concluded that you are eligible to claim a tax refund for (2022/2023). You can submit an application to claim your refund by clicking on "Claim Now" below.' There is a 'Claim Now' link and a note: 'You are just a few steps away from claiming your tax refund and get it deposited in your account. You can also get this settled in your next tax return just by ignoring this email.' The email is dated 'Time updated: 7/29/2024 2:39:14 p.m.'



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Rogue Traders

We have seen reports this week of Rogue Traders cold calling at people homes around the county, stating that they have noticed a problem with their roof or driveway etc and that they can fix the problem.

Remember the following advice, you must NEVER -

- agree for work on your house or garden by someone who knocks at your door uninvited.
- give money to or sign any forms for people who turn up on your doorstep.
- open the door to strangers or allow uninvited callers into your home.
- let somebody take you to the bank to get money for them.

Always,

- Get three written quotes.
- Ask family and friends for recommendations.
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand, and never pay in full until you are completely satisfied with the work.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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