

The HMRC scam can present via the telephone, text message or email and it is a type of phishing. This means someone is contacting potential victims on a large scale, and the attempt is not personal towards you. Because we are approaching the end of the financial year, we expect to see an increase of HMRC impersonation reports:

What does the scam look like:

You will be contacted by phone, email or text and you will be told you are talking to the HMRC. The fraudster will tell you that a large amount of tax is owed, immediate payment is required and if you do not pay, a warrant will be issued for your arrest by the police. Or maybe that you are owed a tax rebate and to follow a link.

This fraud is successful because the contact is scary, the language they use may also be aggressive and authoritative.

How can you stay safe:

The HMRC can sometimes call however they will always include your reference number and never demand immediate payment. Be aware that fraudsters can 'spoof' their phone numbers and pretend to be calling from anywhere in the world. If the number displayed on your phone matches their legitimate number online, it does not mean it is genuine and this is not a verification check.

Log in to your HMRC online account to verify contact or call the HMRC on a number that you have sourced to be correct. Not a number provided to you by the caller, this number will belong to the fraudster. Hover your mouse over any links and in the bottom of your screen it will display where that link is actually going to take you.

Remember, no genuine organisation will ever scare or worry you.

If you have been the victim of fraud, report it [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.