THE LITTLE LEAFLET OF COVID SCAMS

TAKE FIVE TO STOP FRAUD

METROPOLITAN POLICE

NEW SCOTLAND YARD

COVID SCAMS

COVID AND VACCINE SCAMS

COVID-19 Scams

"I would... but owing to COVID..."

Many of the traditional frauds are still going ahead, but criminals are using the COVID-19 Pandemic as an extra "layer" to their frauds to make their lies seem more plausible. Whether this is asking for a direct balance transfer for shopping online, or not being able to meet to sell a car, criminals use COVID as an extra lie to try and deceive.

HMRC goodwill payment

You receive a fake text message stating you've received a goodwill payment or tax rebate from the HMRC. These messages are designed to steal your account details. Do not click on the link provided. Always go via the **www.gov.uk** website to ensure it is genuine.

Fake COVID Tests

Some criminals sell fake COVID tests online. Genuine tests can be ordered for free at **www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests** or you can collect a free pack from your local pharmacy. If you need a PCR test (for travel), you can get one at **www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test**

Vaccine Scams

In the UK, coronavirus vaccines are currently only available via the NHS. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer or your local pharmacy or GP. If it's anyone else, it's a scam.

Vaccinations are free of charge, meaning the NHS will never:

- ⚠ Ask you for your bank account or card details
- ⚠ Ask you for PINS or passwords
- ⚠ Ask you to provide proof of ID, like passports or utility bills
- ⚠ Ask you to provide personal information, like your mother's maiden name
- ⚠ Arrive at your home unannounced to administer a vaccine

If you want to know more, go to **actionfraud.police.uk/vaccine**

Criminals take advantage of any situation to try and commit fraud, and the COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccination rollouts are no exception.

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COVID AND VACCINE SCAMS

Fraud Prevention

- ⚠ Do not give any personal information (name, address, bank details, email or phone number) to organisations or people before verifying their credentials.
- ⚠ Do not let anyone into your home without confirming their identity. Make them wait and call their head office if you need to. Genuine callers will not mind you doing this.
- ⚠ Be wary of any phone calls, emails or texts that you weren't expecting. These can be very hard to spot as phone numbers and emails can easily be disguised to look genuine. They are designed to get you to react without thinking. If you're not sure, then double check.

For more information, go to
www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/suspicious-email-actions

Reporting

If you receive a suspicious email, forward it on to **report@phishing.gov.uk** and forward any suspicious texts to **7726**. Report any other fraud or cyber crime at **www.actionfraud.police.uk** or on **0300 123 2040** (or **0300 123 2050** for deaf/hard of hearing)

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