

# Essex Police Fraud Alert System

14

6th November 2020

## HMRC ISSUE SCAM ALERTS AHEAD OF SECOND LOCKDOWN

HMRC have issued a fraud alert after being made aware of increasing numbers of people receiving text messages impersonating HMRC and stating that they have a COVID-19 tax rebate pending. They are being directed to click on a link in order to ascertain the level of their rebate.

Students are also regularly targeted with fraudulent messaging regarding tax rebates and there are concerns that this trend will continue or increase with the new lockdown restrictions.

During the previous lockdown, we saw an enormous increase in email and text scams relating to COVID-19, where residents were encouraged to click links in unexpected and unsolicited emails.

If you receive an email/text message offering a tax rebate that you are not expecting, please do not click any links. You can find information on identifying genuine HMRC communications, and report any suspicious messages at:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs/contact/reporting-fraudulent-emails](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs/contact/reporting-fraudulent-emails)



HM Revenue & Customs @HMRCgovuk · 4 Nov

⚠️ 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...](http://gov.uk/government/org...)

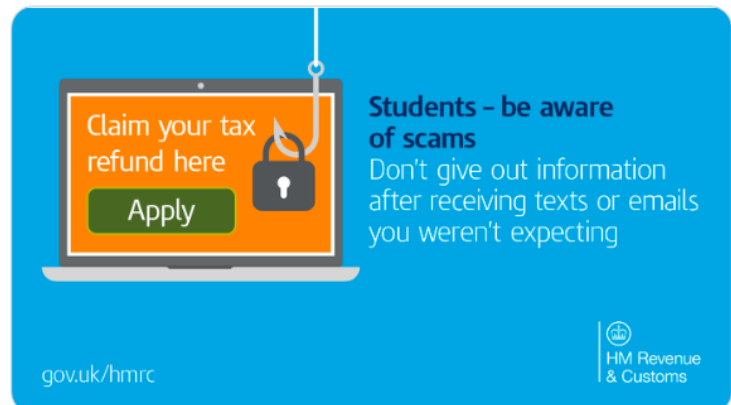


HM Revenue & Customs @HMRCgovuk · 3 Nov

University students are at increased risk from online and text scams offering tax rebates.

Forward suspicious tax emails to [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk) and texts to 60599. #StopChallengeProtect

[gov.uk/report-suspi...](http://gov.uk/report-suspi...)



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on 101 Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and do **even more** Online at [essex.police.uk](http://essex.police.uk)

