

Warning: don't fall for a tax rebate scam



If you get an unexpected phone call or email from someone offering you a tax rebate – beware. Thieves claiming to be the taxman have been getting bank details from unsuspecting people, and stealing money from their accounts. Find out how to spot these scams before they affect you.

How the scams work

Telephone tax rebate scams

The fraudsters telephone people, tell them they are due a tax rebate, and ask for their bank card details so it can be paid to them direct. They then attempt to take money from the victim's bank account.

If you receive a telephone call such as this, give no information to the caller and report it to the police straightaway.

Email tax rebate scams or 'phishing' emails

Typically, a scam email will use a phrase like this: "We have reviewed your tax return and our calculations of your last years accounts show a tax refund of XXXX is due." Like the phone version, the aim is to obtain your bank details and other personal details from you.

Forward suspicious emails to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and then delete it from your computer/mail account.

- phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

HMRC tax rebates are handled by post only

You will never receive a telephone call, email or online form from HMRC about a tax rebate. HMRC also never uses external companies to do this.

HMRC strongly advises customers:

- not to click on websites, links contained in suspicious emails or open attachments
- to report the matter to your bank/card issuer as soon as possible, if you have reason to believe that you have been the victim of an email scam

To report a fraud, you can also call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or follow the link below to use Action Fraud's online fraud reporting tool.