



Government grant/refund scams – Fact Sheet

A fraud that mimics government support schemes or offers to help your company obtain financial assistance.

How does it work?

Companies are contacted by criminals offering help with securing more money as part of their government's aid program or to convince them that they are owed a tax refund due to the pandemic sweeping the country.

How could you be contacted?

- Email
- Text message
- Phone call

Spot the signs

- Hijacks existing message feed
- Non-government email address
- Promise of **financial reward**
- Creates a sense of **urgency**
- Poor grammar
- Contains **links** to other websites designed to harvest your company's information or to make a payment



Stop, Challenge, Protect

If you receive an offer of financial assistance or tax refund that looks like it is from the government, stop and think. Could it be fake?

Learn how to spot the signs. Never click on links in emails and texts. Always check the official website www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

If you think you have been scammed, contact your bank. Report all suspicious communications to Action Fraud.

