



## Businesses Against Scams Fact Sheet

### Government grant/refund scams

During the COVID-19 pandemic, governments around the world were reporting this type of fraud on a large scale.

#### What is the scam?

Companies have been 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

- Criminals can hi-jack a message feed to make it look like it's from someone you know.
- Poor grammar, over use of capital letters
- Non-government email address
- Promise of reward
- Creates a sense of urgency
- Not personalised
- Contains links to other websites designed to harvest your company's information or to make a payment
- No sign-off

#### Stop, Challenge, Protect

If you receive a request to submit company private information, stop and think. Could it be fake? Learn how to spot the signs. If you think you have been scammed, contact your bank. Report all suspicious communications to Action Fraud

