

Update from the Force Crime Prevention Advisor

Edition 14, March 2020

## Coronavirus-related fraud reports increase by 400% in March



The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) [reported](#) a new trend in fraud related to Coronavirus, or COVID-19. Updated figures show there have been 105 reports to Action Fraud since 1 February 2020, with total losses reaching nearly £970,000.

**What scams are we seeing?** The majority of reports are related to online shopping scams where people have ordered protective face masks, hand sanitiser, and other products, which have never arrived.

**Phishing emails:** These attempt to trick people into opening malicious attachments which could lead to fraudsters stealing people's personal information, email logins, passwords, and banking details.

### Some of the tactics being used in phishing emails include:

Fraudsters purporting to be from HMRC offering a tax refund and directing victims to a fake website to harvest their personal and financial details. The emails often display the HMRC logo making it look reasonably genuine and convincing.

Sending articles about the virus outbreak with a link to a fake company website where victims are encouraged to click to subscribe to a daily newsletter for further updates. Sending investment scheme and trading advice encouraging people to take advantage of the downturn.

Fraudsters purporting to be from a research group that mimic the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organisation (WHO). They claim to provide the victim with a list of active infections in their area but to access this information the victim needs to click on a link /make a donation.

## Update from Hampshire Police Cyber Crime Unit

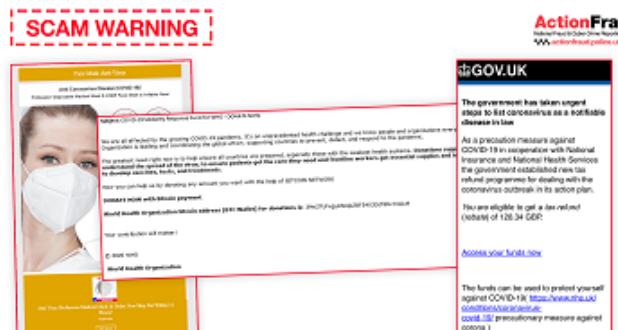
Cyber criminals are using COVID-19 themed phishing emails and websites to infect devices with ransomware and steal login details. Working from Home and self-isolation is causing more people to use the internet and thus increasing the probability of being a victim.

Please read and follow the current advice from the National Cyber Security Centre on:

[Working From Home](#)

[Coronavirus related cyber attack](#)

[Ransomware](#)



These phishing emails were reported to Action Fraud

# Good Practice Guide for Knife Retailers

The Metropolitan Police Service, Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) and London Trading Standards have been working to produce a [good practice guide for knife retailers](#) in addition to collaborating on the training modules.

Alongside this is a Voluntary good practice agreement and resources to assist with training. These resources will be useful nationally although the supporting activities are only in London currently.

## What is included in this toolkit?

- Training modules
- Responsible Retailers Agreement
- Good practice guide
- Staff Training Record & Checklist
- Posters (Customer and Staff areas)
- Stickers



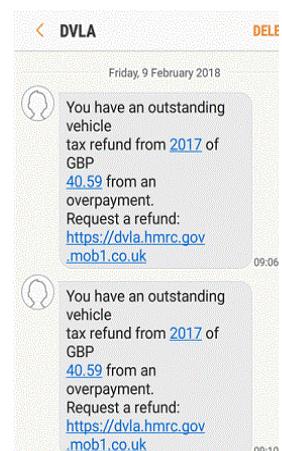
## DVLA warns motorists to be aware of scams

DVLA has released pictures of some of the cons being used by scammers to trick motorists into handing over their money. It comes as new figures show a 20% increase in scams reported to DVLA, with 1,538 reports made to agency in the last three months of 2019.

Scammers are targeting unsuspecting customers with links to services that don't exist and messages of tax refunds, all of which are fake. The DVLA says it will never contact customers by text or email to claim a refund

All tax refunds are generated automatically after a motorist has informed the DVLA they have sold, scrapped or transferred their vehicle to someone else. The agency never asks anyone to get in touch with to claim their refund

DVLA is advising anyone with concerns about any calls, texts, emails or suspicious activity online, to always report these to the police via [Action Fraud](#) immediately.



## Parent Guides to Online Games

The following websites provide useful information about online safety, age ratings, and the computer games your children may be playing:

### [Everybody Plays](#)



### [Ask about Games](#)



### [Get Safe Online](#)



Get Safe Online  
Free expert advice

## NCSC's new cyber security training for staff

The National Cyber Security Centre has produced a new e-learning training package: '**Stay Safe Online: Top Tips for Staff**'. The e-learning package is free and takes less than 30 minutes to complete. The training introduces why cyber security is important and how attacks happen, and then covers four key areas:

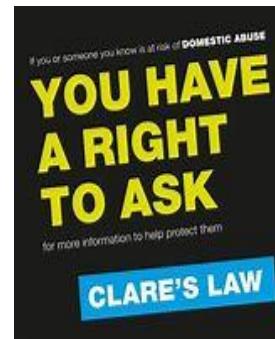
- defending yourself against phishing
- using strong passwords
- securing your devices
- reporting incidents ('if in doubt, call it out')

The training is primarily aimed at SMEs, charities and the voluntary sector, but can be applied to any organisation, regardless of size or sector. It's been deliberately designed for a non-technical audience (who may have little or no knowledge of cyber security), with tips that complement any existing policies and procedures. More information is available [here](#).

## Clare's Law

Clare's Law, also known as the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme, allows people to find out if their partner has an abusive or violent past. It is named after Clare Wood, who was killed by her former partner in 2009. She did not know that he had a history of violence prior to entering a relationship with her.

Clare's Law gives members of the public the right to ask if their partner has a history of violent or abusive behaviour. Checks will be made by police and information will be revealed where there is reason for concern.



The information means people can make informed choices about their relationship. The scheme also gives people the right to ask on behalf of a close friend or relative. However information will only be given to the person who is at risk, or someone who is in a position to protect them. [Click here](#) for more information.

## New ACT App launched



The [Action Counters Terrorism \(ACT\) app](#) provides live-time information from CT Policing, plus all the very latest protective security advice 24/7 – wherever you are. More than a thousand specialists from across the UK have been helping officers trial this new product, including leading organisations from the security, sporting and retail sectors.

Available from Google Play or App Store, the app will provide access to:

- Practical advice and guidance to help you protect your business, plus information on how to respond in the event of an attack
- Information on CT Policing's suite of ACT training products, plus access to the online e-Learning package
- Suite of NaCTSO guidance videos
- Latest reference documents and publications, emergency response and post-incident guidance
- ACT online reporting form and confidential hotline. Live-time news updates from UK Protect