



Keep yourself safe from

## HMRC and Fine Scams

Sometimes, fraudsters impersonate HMRC, the high courts, or government departments demanding an immediate payment for a tax, bill or fine that doesn't exist. They may tell you that you've missed a tax payment or that your employer has not paid enough tax on your behalf. Scammers may even tell you that you've been impersonated and that someone is racking up debt or taxes in your name.

Another tactic criminals use is telling victims that if they make an immediate payment while they're on the phone to them, it will be refunded once the investigation has been concluded. This is not the case.

Occasionally, victims are threatened with arrest, a visit from a bailiff or withdrawal of citizenship if the payment isn't made immediately – this is done in an attempt to pressure you into making a quick decision.

The phone numbers criminals call or text from may be spoofed (made to appear genuine) so it's important to verify any contact received and not take it at face value.

**You must pay £560 to pay your tax bill, or you'll be arrested**



### Top tips for avoiding HMRC or fine scams:

- If you receive a call demanding payment for an unpaid tax bill or fine, stop and think. Is the call out of the blue? Are you being pressured into making a payment quickly? If this is the case, hang up and phone the organisation back on a trusted number found on their website to confirm if the call or text you received was genuine.
- If you received the call on a landline, make further calls from a different device as fraudsters may keep the original line open.
- HMRC will only ever call you to discuss a claim or payment you're already aware of.
- HMRC will never communicate or send you documentation on WhatsApp. If you receive contact like this, it is a scam.
- HMRC or the high courts would never accept a payment in the form of gift cards or cryptocurrency.
- If you receive a suspicious text message, you can forward it to 7726 to report spam texts directly to your mobile provider.

Find out more by reading our article on [HMRC Phone, Email and Text Scams](#) or visiting the [Take Five](#) or [The Met Police](#) websites

If you're ever unsure about a payment you've been asked to make, or already made, get in touch with us on your app or by calling 159. We're here to help you. You might also want to speak to Victim Support, an independent charity that can provide support to victims of crime and traumatic events. Their [helpline](#) is open 24/7.