

# Essex Police Fraud Alert System

17

27th November 2020

## HMRC Self Assessment Scams

Self assessment customers are being warned to be vigilant following reports of a number of HMRC scams ahead of the return deadline on 31st January 2021.

Scams use the deadline to panic customers into sharing personal or financial details. Criminals contact customer via SMS text message, email or phone calls pretending to be HMRC offering financial help, tax rebates or refunds.

Customers are also warned to be aware of fake websites charging for government services.

### Ways to spot a tax scam

It could be a scam if it:

- is unexpected
- offers a refund, tax rebate or grant
- asks for personal information like bank details
- is threatening
- tells you to transfer money.

You can report suspicious activity to HMRC at [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk) and texts to **60599**.

For more information or to report phone scams online go to [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).



HM Revenue  
& Customs

Beware of phishing  
scams and copycat  
websites when doing  
your tax return

[gov.uk/self-assessment](https://www.gov.uk/self-assessment)



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on 101  
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and  
do **even more** Online **at** [essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)

