

CORONAVIRUS SCAMS

Fraudsters are using text messages, social media posts, fake websites, phone calls and even doorstepping to defraud unsuspecting victims.



Scam Calls

Examples of the Covid-19 scams calls reported include fraudsters purporting to be from both well known and bogus charities looking for "donations". We have also seen scammers targeting the care sector to attempt to sell them non-existent PPE.



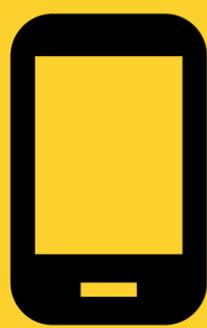
Scam Emails

There has been an explosion of phishing attacks. Individuals are being sent a variety of emails impersonating authorities to persuade them to download software or donate to bogus causes. Cyber-criminals are attempting to capitalise on government support packages by imitating public institutions.



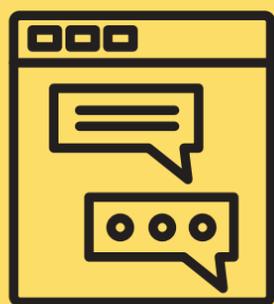
Doorstep Rogues

Some of the most worrying reported scams have been as a result of those calling at properties in Suffolk. There are reports of people pretending to be from charities such as the British Red Cross, knocking on the doors of elderly and vulnerable individuals, taking their money to do shopping – and then not returning.



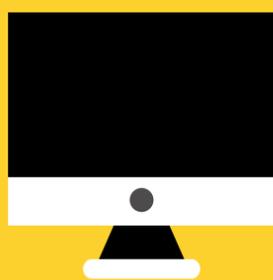
Text Scams

Following the genuine text sent by the Government, fraudsters have been using 'spoofing technology' to impersonate them. Fake texts have been received claiming to fine recipients for leaving the house too often, other texts offer Covid-19 tax relief. All texts have links that lead the recipient to bogus websites.



Social Media Scams

With the increased use of social media this has been an ideal place to target large numbers of people. We have seen fake facebook pages created to look like supermarket brands offering free shopping, as well as hoax alarmist messages being shared on WhatsApp.



Fake Websites

Scam and malware websites are being created on a daily basis. Reports have been received of fake Government websites, bogus sites selling fake Covid-19 cures, supplements and vaccines, and those selling unsafe or non-existent PPE.



Join The Fight Against Scams

- Report scams to Suffolk Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **0808 223 1133**
- Follow us on **Twitter** and **Facebook** to help share messages to your friends, family and followers.
- Sign up to receive a weekly email alert by going to www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight