

Scams in the time of Coronavirus

It's not just the virus to beware of, the sad fact is with so many people at home, it is actually easier for Scammers to get a hold of people.



Fake Lockdown Scams

People have been getting texts about receiving a fine for leaving their home during lockdown. This is a very clever scam but completely fake. They have no way of tying your phone number to you. Have a laugh, then delete the message.

Fake Tax Refund

Others have reported receiving a text that is supposedly from the government offering a tax refund for those people working at home. It's a variation on an old scam but still entirely bogus.

School Meals Support

Another current scam is people receiving a text or phone call about somebody providing financial support for school meals whilst children are at home. This is targeting parents all over and should be ignored.

Fake Masks or Hand Sanitisers

Adverts have been popping up on Facebook and elsewhere for face masks and hand sanitisers. These products are usually massively overpriced, of an inferior quality or sometimes, don't exist at all. These should be ignored. Remember to only buy this kind of products for a reasonable price and from a reputable source.

WhatsApp

A variation on an old scam is someone trying to access your WhatsApp so they can pretend to be you and get your friends and daily to send them money. It's a horrible scam that is sadly surprisingly easy. They request a "reset" on your WhatsApp and then contact you to confirm the reset code you have been sent. **Never** give somebody else a reset code that you have been sent on your phone. Those codes are for you and you alone.

Please watch out other videos and read our other handouts which include more information about other scams out there.

Sources

ACE IT: Room 2, 25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9BX

Telephone: 07737 738 551- Website: www.aceit.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number: SC036315

Trading Standards, Police Anti-Fraud teams, Consumer Association / Which Magazine, ACE IT.



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