

Self-Assessment customers at risk of HMRC scams

Beware of fraudsters if you are starting to think about completing your annual tax returns. Self-Assessment customers have become a target for unscrupulous criminals, with some threatening arrest and others promising a sizeable rebate.

In the 12 months to August 2022, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) responded to more than 180,000 referrals of suspicious contact from the public, of which almost 81,000 were scams offering fake tax rebates.

Myrtle Lloyd, HMRC's Director General for Customer Services, said: "Never let yourself be rushed. If someone contacts you saying they're from HMRC, wanting you to urgently transfer money or give personal information, be on your guard. HMRC will never ring up threatening arrest. Only criminals do that."

Fraudsters target customers when they know they are more likely to be in contact with HMRC, which is why Self-Assessment customers should be extra vigilant to this activity.

There is a risk they could be taken in by scam texts, emails, or calls either offering a 'refund' or demanding unpaid tax, thinking that they are genuine HMRC communications referring to their Self-Assessment return. Some customers who have not done a Self-Assessment return previously might be tricked into clicking on links in these emails or texts and

revealing personal or financial information to criminals.

The deadline for filing paper tax returns for the 2021 to 2022 tax year is 31 October 2022, and 31 January 2023 for those filing their tax return online. Customers who file their return online via GOV.UK should not share their HMRC login details. Someone using the details could steal from the customer or make a fraudulent claim in their name.



HMRC is actively tackling the scams and fraudsters who attempt to mimic genuine HMRC activity and messages. It also tackles misleading websites designed to make people pay for services that should be free or low cost, charging to connect people to free HMRC phone helplines.

Customers can report any suspicious activity to HMRC. They can forward suspicious texts claiming to be from HMRC to 60599 and emails to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk. Any tax scam phone calls can be reported to HMRC using the online form on GOV.UK.

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