



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

URGENT Covid-19 Related Scams

19th March 2020

Covid-19 continues to remain a very current concern and is causing angst for many people in itself. We know fraudsters use fear tactics to try to manipulate people, they may also offer false promise of 'vaccine' and 'cure'. While the situation continues, criminals are exploiting this situation to gain opportunity during these challenging times. Scams we see are emerging as follows:

Top Scams:

Please be aware of these from any source - phone, door, email, text, and social media:

"I have the cure, don't tell anyone, I can let you have it for £5,000"

"Your Paper money in the bank has been handled by Covid-19 infected staff – move it to this account for safety....."

Fraudulent App:

The below link highlights an app that claims to provide updates on the spread of coronavirus, but then encrypts the phone.

<https://en-cryptonomist-ch.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/en.cryptonomist.ch/2020/03/16/covidlock-ransomware-coronavirus/amp/>



WHO Scams:

Fraudsters are sending out coronavirus-themed phishing emails in an attempt to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing sensitive personal and financial details. The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** states the following on their website:

'Beware of criminals pretending to be WHO. Criminals are disguising themselves as WHO to steal money or sensitive information. If you are contacted by a person or organization that appears to be from WHO, verify their authenticity before responding. The World Health Organization will:

- never ask for your username or password to access safety information
- never email attachments you didn't ask for
- never ask you to visit a link outside of www.who.int
- never charge money to apply for a job, register for a conference, or reserve a hotel
- never conduct lotteries or offer prizes, grants, certificates or funding through email.

The only call for donations WHO has issued is the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, which is linked to below. Any other appeal for funding or donations that appears to be from WHO is a scam.

- [COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund](#)

Beware that criminals use email, websites, phone calls, text messages, and even fax messages for their scams.

You can verify if communication is legit by contacting WHO directly'.

More information can be found visiting here:

<https://www.who.int/about/communications/cyber-security>

World Health Organisation

Bogus Callers:

An alert from West Midlands Police has detailed the following:

'A colleague has received a message from residents with regard to people knocking on doors pretending they are testing for the coronavirus. Please don't open your door as they are bogus callers and are using the current situation to take advantage of vulnerable people' (West Midlands Police).



People are already feeling vulnerable, concerned and worried because of Covid-19. Please help to raise awareness to these frauds, supporting and protecting people from being targeted in this despicable way.

Thank you



Further advice can be found at:

www.ncsc.gov.uk

www.cyberaware.gov.uk

www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk

www.getsafeonline.org

www.actionfraud.police.uk

www.staffordshire.police.uk

Please help others and report all Cyber Crime and Fraud to:

www.actionfraud.police.uk

or call:

Action Fraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

0300 123 2040

