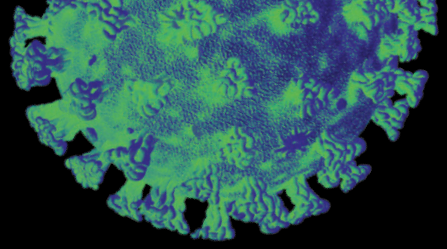
National Cyber Security Centre

Government Counter Fraud Function



GOV.UK/coronavirus

COVID-19: SMS / Text message SCAMS

TOP 4 SMS SCAMS

Fake URL links claiming to link to GOV.UK website to claim supposed COVID-19 related payment

Lockdown fines suggesting you have breached lockdown

Offers of health supplements that will prevent you becoming infected

Financial support offers that appear to be from your bank

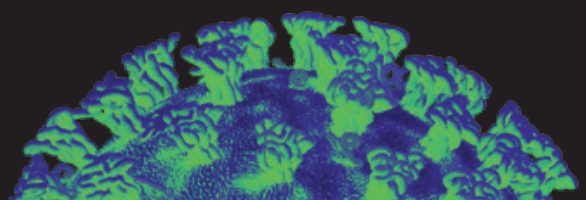
HOW DO SMS SCAMS WORK

Cyber criminals are preying on fears of the coronavirus and sending 'phishing' text messages that try and trick users into clicking on a bad link. Messages are short and simple and often claim to be from a known entity. Web links are harder to spot on a SMS as they are shortened so apply caution clicking on links!

Sender of UK Government SMS:

Genuine text messages from the UK Government will only come from **UK_Gov**

You will only ever be directed to **GOV.UK/coronavirus.**



HOW TO VERIFY THE MESSAGE?

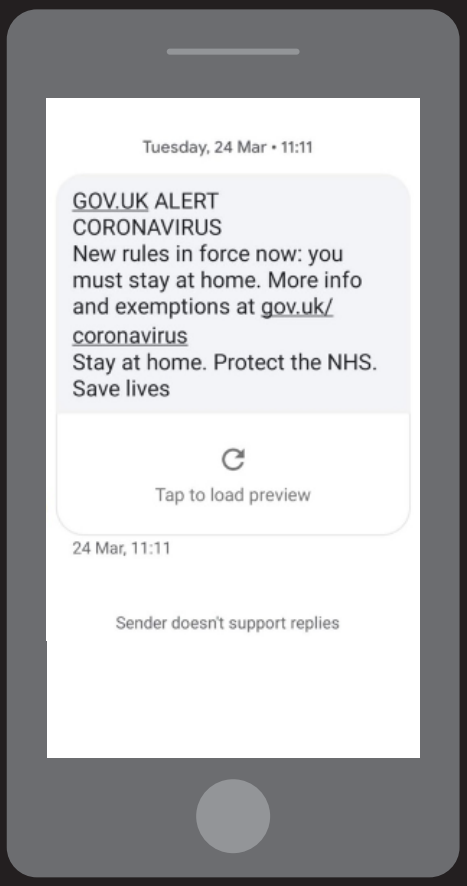
1. Challenge - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests that don't feel right. Check **GOV.UK** to ensure it's genuine.
2. Be wary of text messages that try to get you to send money, or important personal information such as bank details or passwords.
3. Take a moment to stop and think before parting with information to keep you safe or your money.
4. Use official government websites and refer to 'Contact Us' sections of websites to access information and services.

National Cyber Security Centre

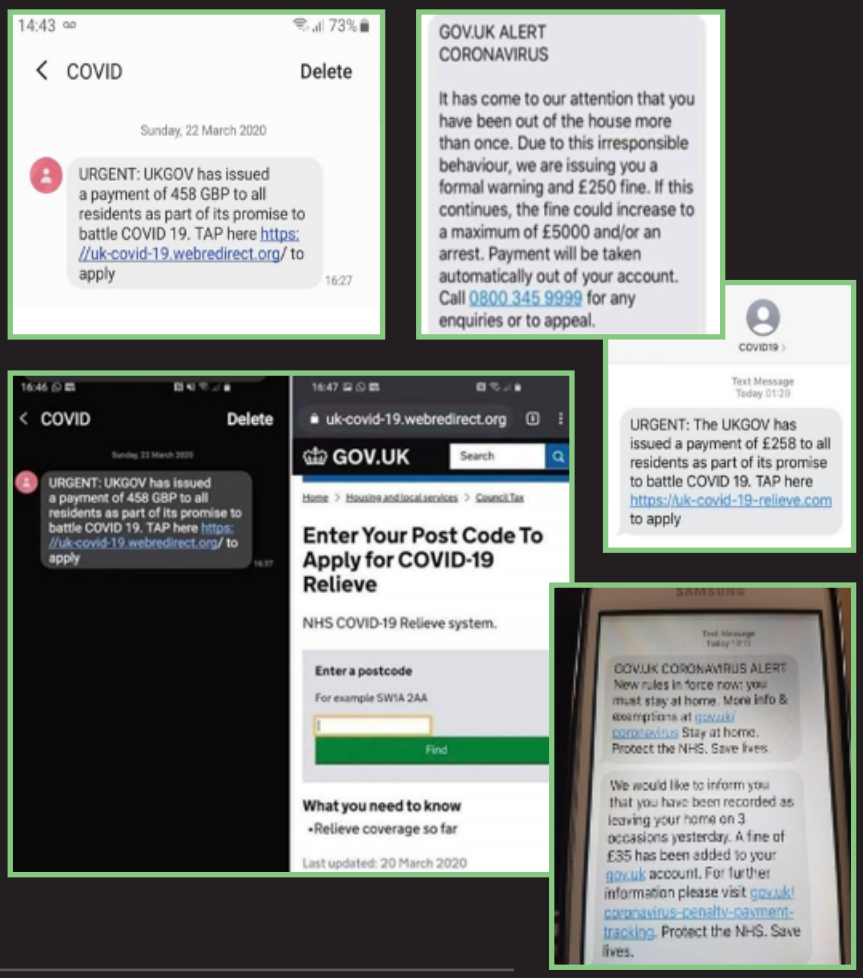
Government Counter Fraud Function

GOV.UK/coronavirus

GENUINE UK GOVERNMENT SMS



EXAMPLES OF SCAMS



RECOMMENDED STEP-BY-STEP ACTIONS TO TAKE

- **Don't Respond**
- **Report the SMS Scam to Action Fraud**
- **Forward the message to 7726 ('SPAM' on a keypad)**

FURTHER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

Public Sector Organisations: The Cabinet Office has formed a COVID-19 Fraud Response Team to assist the government with its counter fraud response. Requests for assistance should be emailed to: **covid19-counter-fraud@cabinetoffice.gov.uk**

Public: Please report to **Action Fraud**