

# Kent Fraud Alert System



**TO STOP FRAUD™**

## Payment Diversion Fraud

What is it?

Criminals will contact businesses or customers via email, usually claiming to be from a company that the business or customer has been dealing with. They will request a payment to be made often and inform the recipient of a change of bank account details. Of course, any monies sent, go into an account controlled and held by the fraudster.

Payment Diversion Fraud affects all types of businesses and individuals. However, due to the targeted nature of this fraud type, small to medium sized businesses and those of you currently buying houses are particularly vulnerable and has ended in people losing deposits for their new homes.

There have been reported losses of approximately £152m in the year to September 2021 nationally for businesses and individuals.

Learn how to stay safe: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/payment-diversion-fraud>

If you think you may have fallen victim to this, then contact your Bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or calling 0300 123 2040.



## Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



### Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

Get the latest  
scam advice:



@KentPoliceECU



**Kent  
Police**

### Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)

In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)



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## DVLA Phishing Emails

Be on the lookout for the latest phishing emails (see below) impersonating DVLA.gov.uk. Remember DVLA will never ask you click on a link and divulge personal info or bank account details etc. or ask you to log into an account.

The golden rule as always, if you get an unsolicited email or text message asking you to click on a link, it is probably a scam.

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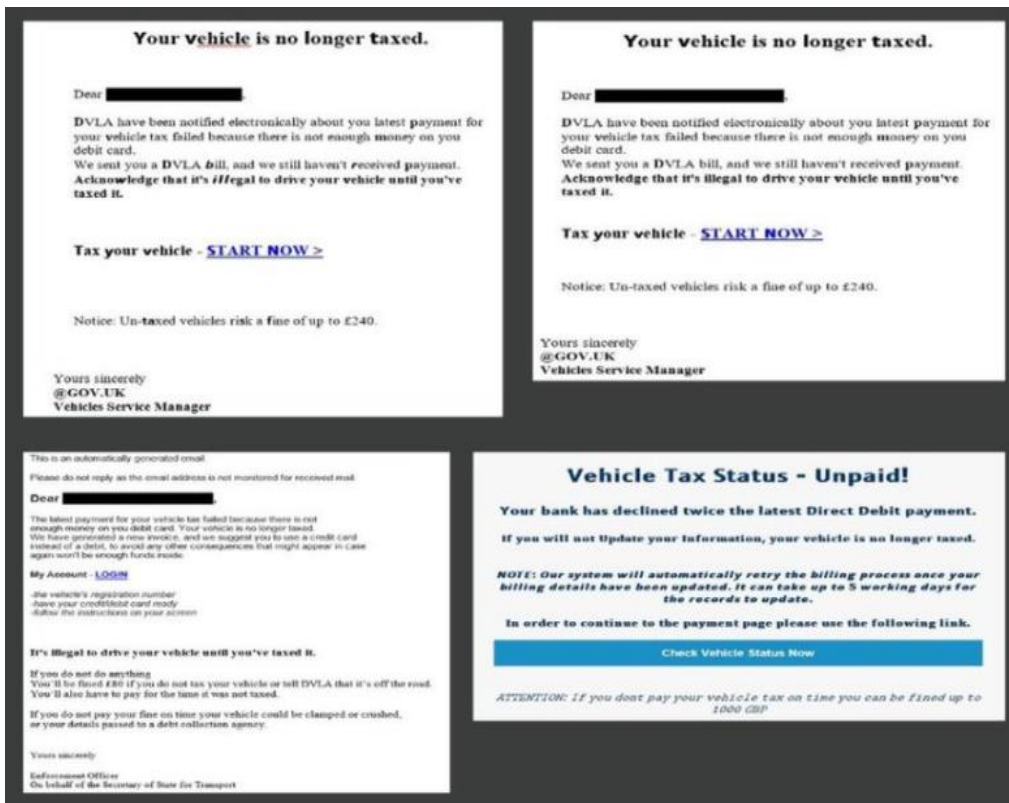
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## Further DVLA Advice

I have recently spoken to several people who have experienced problems when renewing their driving licences, whereby they have paid more to get their licence renewed than they needed to, by going on line and using companies offering assistance but charging fees in excess of over £60.



I have been asked if what these companies are doing is illegal and the answer is no, as they do genuinely offer the service's they advertise but also charge a lot more than you going to the DVLA website direct.

If you go direct to the DVLA website, you will be able to renew your licence for just £14. So, if you are looking for help with V5C vehicle registration certificates or renewing a driving licence from the age of 70 then I would suggest going direct to the DVLA website.

If a website offering DVLA-related services doesn't have "gov.uk" in the address bar, it's a red flag that it may charge these extra fees.

The online address for DVLA is

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/driver-and-vehicle-licensing-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/driver-and-vehicle-licensing-agency)

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[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

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## Advice about HMRC Scams

An HMRC spokesperson said:

“Never let yourself be rushed. If someone contacts you saying they’re HMRC, wanting you to urgently transfer money or give personal information, be on your guard and HMRC will never ring up threatening you with arrest. Only criminals do that.”

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“Scams come in many forms. Some threaten you with immediate arrest for tax evasion, others offer a tax rebate. Contacts like those should set alarm bells ringing, so take your time and check HMRC scams advice online at GOV.UK.

“You can also contact HMRC directly but make sure you use the phone numbers from our contacts details on GOV.UK.”

### HMRC’s advice:

#### Stop:

- Take a moment to think before parting with your money or information.
- If a phone call, text or email is unexpected, don’t give out private information or reply, and don’t download attachments or click on links before checking on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) that the contact is genuine.
- Do not trust caller ID on phones. Numbers can be spoofed.

#### Challenge:

- It’s ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests - only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- Search ‘scams’ on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for information on how to recognise genuine HMRC contact and how to avoid and report scams.

#### Protect:

- Forward suspicious emails claiming to be from HMRC to [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk) and texts to 60599. Report scam phone calls [on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- Contact your bank immediately if you think you’ve fallen victim to a scam, and report it to [Action Fraud](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) (in Scotland, contact the police on 101).



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