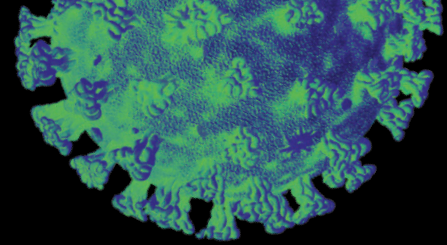




National Cyber  
Security Centre



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

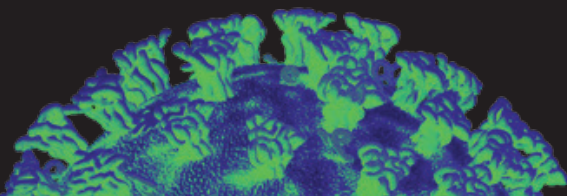
Be wary of text messages that try to get you to send money, or important personal information such as bank details or passwords.

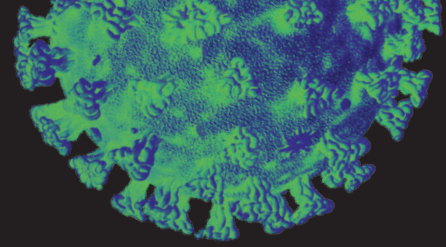
3

Take a moment to stop and think before parting with information to keep you safe or your money.

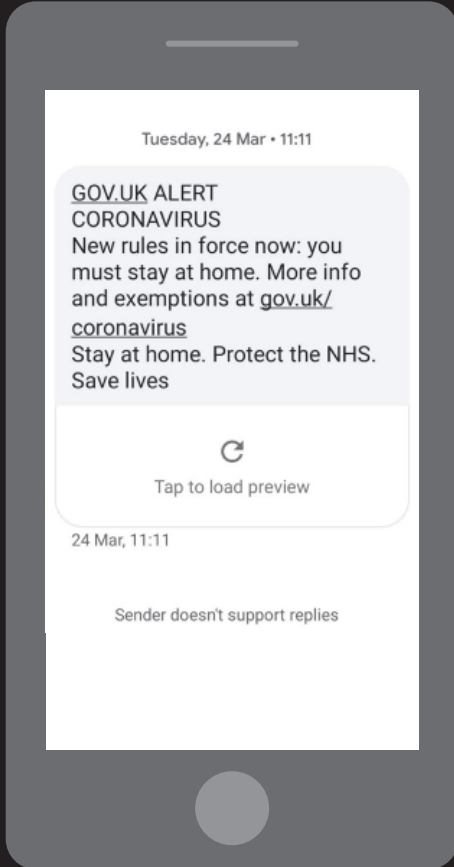
4

Use official government websites and refer to 'Contact Us' sections of websites to access information and services.

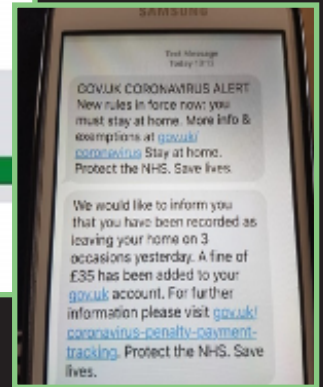
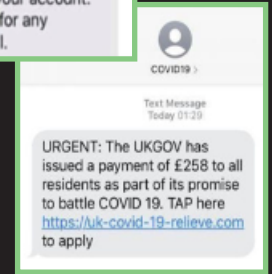
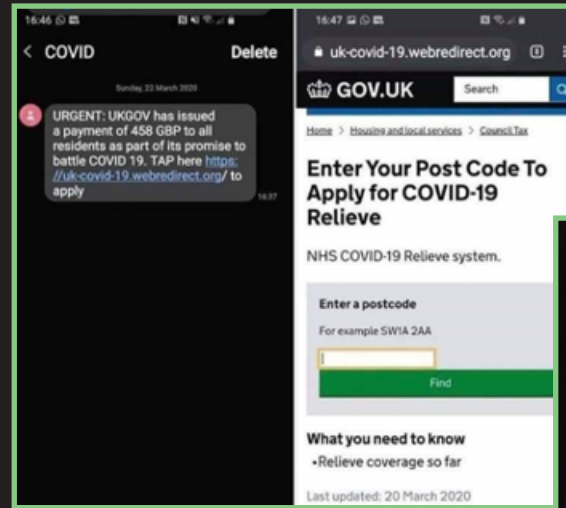




## GENUINE UK GOVERNMENT SMS



## 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](mailto:covid19-counter-fraud@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

**Public:** Please report to **Action Fraud**

