

Examples of Covid-19 related scams detected in other jurisdictions which typically we would expect to see reaching Ireland in due course:

UK National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB)

- Updated figures from the UK's National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) show there have been 105 reports of Covid-19 related since 1 February 2020, with total losses reaching nearly £970,000.
- The first report relating to COVID-19 was received on 9 February. There were 20 more reports that month. Since then, there have been 46 reports between the 1 March and 13 March, and 38 reports in just four days (14 March – 18 March).

Scams being reported by NFIB:

- The majority of reports are related to online shopping scams where people have ordered protective face masks, hand sanitiser, and other products, which have never arrived. One victim reported losing over £15k when they purchased face masks that were never delivered. Reporting numbers are expected to rise as the virus continues to spread across the world.
- Other frauds being reported include ticket fraud, romance fraud, charity fraud and lender loan fraud.
- Over 200 reports of coronavirus-themed phishing emails have been reported. These attempt to trick people into opening malicious attachments which could lead to fraudsters stealing people's personal information, email logins and passwords, and banking details.

Some of the tactics being used in phishing emails include:

- Fraudsters purporting to be from a research group that mimic the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organisation (WHO). They claim to provide the victim with a list of active infections in their area but to access this information the victim needs to either: click on a link which redirects them to a credential-stealing page; or make a donation of support in the form of a payment into a Bitcoin account.
- Fraudsters providing articles about the virus outbreak with a link to a fake company website where victims are encouraged to click to subscribe to a daily newsletter for further updates.
- Fraudsters sending investment scheme and trading advice encouraging people to take advantage of the coronavirus downturn.
- Fraudsters purporting to be from Revenue and Customs offering a tax refund and directing victims to a fake website to harvest their personal and financial details. The emails often display the Revenue and Customs logo making it look reasonably genuine and convincing

COVID -19 Scam purporting to be from the NHS in relation to a tax refund scheme/programme

UK Updates on COVID-19

6 March 2020 08:08



GOV UK Notify

Details



The government has taken urgent steps to list coronavirus as a notifiable disease in law

As a precaution measure against COVID-19 in cooperation with National Insurance and National Health Services the government established new tax refund programme for dealing with the coronavirus outbreak in its action plan.

You are eligible to get a *tax refund (rebate)* of 128.34 GBP.

[Access your funds now](#)

The funds can be used to protect yourself

Reply Reply all Forward Delete Thread

INTERPOL Updates

- To date, INTERPOL has assisted with some 30 COVID-19 related fraud scam cases with links to Asia and Europe, leading to the blocking of 18 bank accounts and freezing of more than USD 730,000 in suspected fraudulent transactions.
- INTERPOL is encouraging the public to exercise caution when buying medical supplies online during the current health crisis, with criminals capitalizing on the situation to run a range of financial scams.
- With surgical masks and other medical supplies in high demand yet difficult to find in retail stores as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, fake shops, websites, social media accounts and email addresses claiming to sell these items have sprung up online. But instead of receiving the promised masks and supplies, unsuspecting victims have seen their money disappear into the hands of the criminals involved.

COVID-19 fraud schemes reported by INTERPOL

- Telephone fraud – criminals call victims pretending to be clinic or hospital officials, who claim that a relative of the victim has fallen sick with the virus and request payments for medical treatment;
- Phishing – emails claiming to be from national or global health authorities, with the aim of tricking victims to provide personal credentials or payment details, or to open an attachment containing malware. In many cases, the fraudsters impersonate legitimate companies, using similar names, websites and email addresses in their attempt to trick unsuspecting members of the public, even reaching out proactively via emails and messages on social media platforms.

Blocking and recovering fraudulent payments

- Monetary losses reported to INTERPOL have been as high as hundreds of thousands of dollars in a single case, and these crimes are crossing international borders.
- INTERPOL's Financial Crimes Unit is receiving information from member countries on a near-daily basis regarding fraud cases and requests to assist with stopping fraudulent payments. Targeted victims have primarily been located in Asia, but the criminals have used bank accounts located in other regions such as Europe, to appear as legitimate accounts linked to the company which is being impersonated.
- In one case, a victim in Asia made payments to several bank accounts unknowingly controlled by criminals in multiple European countries. With INTERPOL's assistance, national authorities were able to block some of the payments, but others were quickly transferred by the criminals to second and even third bank accounts before they could be traced and blocked.

Fake emails/email scams set out below which are doing the rounds:

Subject: YOUR SHIPPING IS ON YOUR WAY

Dear customer

Due to several cases of package misplacement we have recently experienced, it is now mandatory to confirm the recipient's delivery address before final delivery.

Please **CLICK HERE** TO CONFIRM YOUR DELIVERY DETAIL accordingly, To confirm if your address is correct, before sending it to our departure office to send it to the correct destination.

This email has been sent to you from the dhl delivery office.

© 2020 DHL. The content of this message is protected by copyright and trademark laws under US and international law. Review our privacy policy. All rights reserved.

1003079-3-6-US-EN-30234291

2020 © DHL International GmbH. All rights

.....
DHL _ Global Mail

Need information and advice on COVID-19? Go to www.hse.ie/coronavirus

"Tá an thaisnéis sa ríomhphost seo (ceangaltáin san áireamh) faoi rún. Bainneann sé leis an té ar seoladh chuige amháin agus tá sé ar intinn go bhfaighfidh siadsan amháin é agus gurb iadsan amháin a dhéanfaidh breithniú air. Más rud é nach tusa an duine ar leis é, tá cosc iomlán ar aon thaisnéis atá aon, a úsáid, a chraobhscaoilleadh, a scaipeadh, a nochtadh, a fhoilsiú, ná a chóipeáil. Seainn gurb iad tuairimí pearsanta an údar atá san ríomhphost agus nach tuairimí FSS iad.

Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí dhearmad, bheadh muid buíoch dá gcuireá in iúl don Deasc Seirbhíse ECT ar an nguthán ag +353 818 300300 nó ar an ríomhphost chuig service_desk@hse.ie agus ansin glan an ríomhphost seo ded' chóras."

"Information in this email (including attachments) is confidential. It is intended for receipt and consideration only by the intended recipient. If you are not an addressee or intended recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution, disclosure, publication or copying of information contained in this email is strictly prohibited. Opinions expressed in this email may be personal to the author and are not necessarily the opinions of the HSE.

If this email has been received by you in error we would be grateful if you could immediately notify the ICT Service Desk by telephone at +353 818 300300 or by email to service_desk@hse.ie and thereafter delete this e-mail from your system"

Subject: EMAIL CLOSURE

Update your email.

Dear user

Your email will be closed in the next 24 hours. If not Dating in our [database](#) Please use the tabs below to upload Update your account.

[-> Update Here <-](#)

Thank you

MSN 2020

Need information and advice on COVID-19? Go to www.hse.ie/coronavirus

"Tá an thaisnéis sa ríomhphost seo (ceangaltáin san áireamh) faoi rún. Baineann sé leis an té ar seoladh chuige amháin agus tá sé ar intinn go bhfaighfidh siadsan amháin é agus gurb iadsan amháin a dhéanfaidh breithniú air. Más rud é nach tusa an duine ar leis é, tá cosc iomlán ar aon thaisnéis atá ann, a úsáid, a chraobhscaioileadh, a scaipeadh, a nochtadh, a fhoilsiú, ná a chóipeáil. Seains gurb iad tuairimí pearsanta an údar atá san ríomhphost agus nach tuairimí FSS iad.

Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí dhearmad, bheadh muid buíoch dá gcuirfeá in iúl don Deasc Seirbhísí ECT ar an nguthán ag +353 818 300300 nó ar an ríomhphost, chuig service_desk@hse.ie agus ansin glan an ríomhphost seo ded' chóras."

"Information in this email (including attachments) is confidential. It is intended for receipt and consideration only by the intended recipient. If you are not an addressee or intended recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution, disclosure, publication or copying of information contained in this email is strictly prohibited. Opinions expressed in this email may be personal to the author and are not necessarily the opinions of the HSE.

If this email has been received by you in error we would be grateful if you could immediately notify the ICT Service Desk by telephone at +353 818 300300 or by email to service_desk@hse.ie and thereafter delete this e-mail from your system"

Subject: VERIFY YOUR ACCOUNT

Outlook Mail

Your email will be blocked if it is not verified if your account is not verified within 24 hours of receiving this automated mail.

[VERIFY NOW](#)

Thank you

Please do not reply to this message. The email sent an address cannot be answered.

Need information and advice on COVID-19? Go to www.hse.ie/coronavirus

"Tá an thaisnéis sa ríomhphost seo (ceangaltáin san áireamh) faoi rún. Baineann sé leis an té ar seoladh chuige amháin agus tá sé ar intinn go bhfaighfidh siadsan amháin é agus gurb iadsan amháin a dhéanfaidh breithniú air. Más rud é nach tusa an duine ar leis é, tá cosc iomlán ar aon thaisnéis atá ann, a úsáid, a chraobhscaioileadh, a scaipeadh, a nochtadh, a fhoilsiú, ná a chóipeáil. Seains gurb iad tuairimí pearsanta an údar atá san ríomhphost agus nach tuairimí FSS iad.

Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí dhearmad, bheadh muid buíoch dá gcuirfeá in iúl don Deasc Seirbhísí ECT ar an nguthán ag +353 818 300300 nó ar an ríomhphost, chuig service_desk@hse.ie agus ansin glan an ríomhphost seo ded' chóras."

"Information in this email (including attachments) is confidential. It is intended for receipt and consideration only by the intended recipient. If you are not an addressee or intended recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution, disclosure, publication or copying of information contained in this email is strictly prohibited. Opinions expressed in this email may be personal to the author and are not necessarily the opinions of the HSE.

If this email has been received by you in error we would be grateful if you could immediately notify the ICT Service Desk by telephone at +353 818 300300 or by email to service_desk@hse.ie and thereafter delete this e-mail from your system"