

25 August 2021

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Dear Forum Member

I am writing to ask you to share our advice on fighting cyber and phone scams with your organisation and through your communications channels.

As you will know, scams have increased during Covid-19 and at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) we have seen tax-related scams roughly double over the past year. These crimes often target the busy, unwary or vulnerable, but anyone can become a victim. The pandemic has given criminals a fresh hook for their activity and we've detected more than 460 Covid financial support scams alone since early 2020.

HMRC takes a proactive approach to protecting the public from tax-related scams and we have a dedicated Customer Protection Team that works continuously to identify and close them down.

We also encourage people to report HMRC-branded scams directly to us so that we can gather information to help us with that work.

Because anyone can fall prey to these crimes, we want to ask you to share our advice on scams, to help citizens know what to look out for and how to report anything suspicious to us.

We would be extremely grateful for your help in spreading the word.

**Mike Fell**

Head of Cyber Security Operations