



northyorkshire community messaging

from North Yorkshire Police

Coronavirus Related Scams

We have been made aware of a number of new scams exploiting people's fear over the Coronavirus. The scams take several forms which include (so far):

- Messages claiming to be from HMRC offering a tax refund due to changes in the law around Covid-19. Recipients have to click a link which takes them to a fraudulent website
- Messages claiming to be from the Centre for Disease Control or from the World Health Organisation. These messages offer the recipient the chance to view a list of confirmed cases within their local area by clicking on a link and making a Bitcoin payment.
- Emails claiming to be from a virologist sending an attached document with instructions on how to avoid the Coronavirus. The attachment is malicious.
- Fraudulent online sales of masks and hand sanitiser which never materialise. If an online shopping offer looks too good to be true, then it probably is.

Please do not click on links or open attachments and take time to check that the email is from a legitimate source. Please be aware that fraudsters go to great lengths to make their communications with you look genuine.

As Covid-19 continues to spread, fraudsters are likely to continue using the anxiety it generates to trick people out of their personal data and hard -earned money. You can find more information about the scams listed above online. The BBC have summarised these scams in this article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-51838468>

More than ever, as a community you need to be aware of those in your locality who are elderly, live alone and who are vulnerable. Please look after and support each other

North Yorkshire Community Messaging (NYCM) is managed by North Yorkshire Police. The official website is www.nycm.co.uk which will allow you to sign into your account to change your delivery method preference or locations of interest. It also contains a FAQs section, which may assist with any queries you have.

Links and attachments: North Yorkshire Police will only ever link you to secure web-sites we trust, we will only send you attachments where we believe it is absolutely necessary.

If you need to contact North Yorkshire Police please call 101 or in an emergency dial 999. Alternatively please email any non urgent enquiries to: generalenquiries@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk