

Fraudulent Tax Rebate Emails -Trading Standards Warning

27 September 2010

Yet again there are hoax emails being sent out to people regarding tax refunds – some of them look very convincing this time around, sometimes using HMRC logos. As you can see from the information below issued by HMRC, they never correspond with customers about tax refunds by email.

From the HMRC website:

"Phishing emails

HMRC will never send notifications of a tax rebate by email, or ask you to disclose personal or payment information by email.

You should never disclose your personal and/or payment information in reply to an email that may look like it's from HMRC, you may well be revealing your details to a fraudulent website.

If you have received an email claiming to be from HMRC that you suspect may be fraudulent, please forward it to phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk.

However, if you have already given any of your personal information, for example your HMRC User ID, password or National Insurance number, in reply to a suspect email please forward brief details to security.custcon@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk.

Please do not disclose any of your personal details or information in the email report to us. However it would help us to investigate if you would tell us the type(s) of information that you disclosed to the suspect website. For example - I gave my Name, Address, Date of Birth, bank card details, HMRC User ID etc.

Unfortunately HMRC cannot reply to every email, but please be assured that action is taken on each report received."

As well as emailing HMRC as requested above, please refer any complaints to Lancashire Trading Standards Service, 55 Guildhall Street, Preston, Lancashire PR1 3NU via Consumer Direct tel 08454 040506. If anyone has lost money they should contact the police, or alternatively refer to Action Fraud via their website www.actionfraud.org.uk or number 0300 123 2040.