

Scam Emails: If you receive suspicious emails, please forward them to report@phishing.gov.uk to help the National Cyber Security Centre tackle fraud.
Examples:

1. Fake 'Covid relief fund' email

We've been informed that Microsoft users are being targeted by a fake email. A member of the public informed us that they received an official-looking email purporting to be from the software company. It stated that they were to receive £9.6m of £1bn that the company is giving away to support Microsoft users during the pandemic.

It's a scam designed to steal your bank details.

2. Parking penalty charge phishing email

A fake email claiming to be from the HM Courts and Tribunals Service is doing the rounds in an attempt to steal your bank details. Not only do the scammers give you a fake fine, but they take it a step further by threatening to take you to court if it's not paid within their given deadline.

It's a scam designed to steal your bank details.

3. Council Tax

A fake email claiming to be from GOV.UK about your Council Tax. Please remember Havering contact you about Council Tax, not the government. The email says:

You are getting a Council Tax Reduction (this used to be called Council Tax Benefit) considering you're on a low income or get benefits.

- *Total amount of benefits: **GBP 357.95***
- *The refund amount will be transferred directly on your Debit/Credit Card.*

Apply now to claim the reductions made over your past 5 years of Council Tax payments

FAKE FAKE FAKE FAKE FAKE

Scam Letters: A resident showed me a letter she had received that was an obvious scam, for one thing it looked so amateur. Allegedly, if she got in touch with the person who wrote the letter he would share a huge sum of money he had discovered in China that had been left to a relative of hers. She only needed to share her bank details for the money to be paid in!!!

Business Cards through the door: Please be very, very careful when you choose someone for tree care and gardening services. Personal recommendation is best or of course companies that advertise in FOCUS. We have heard horror stories about some companies based in Essex

If you need help or advice with any of the above, just get in touch with your local FOCUS team