



Police Fraud Newsletter – July 2017

additional news

Increase in HMRC frauds

Sussex, elderly people are receiving a high volume of phone calls purporting to be from HMRC. So far, none of them sent money, but it is vital that people are aware of the signs and act on them.

This is a recent case study:

A man of 87 living alone in East Sussex, received a call from a woman claiming to be from HMRC. He was transferred on the line and spoke to an unknown male saying that he owed them money and that he would be taken to court if he didn't pay up. The victim offered to pay and the caller told him to go to their office in Tunbridge Wells.

The victim said he could not get there, so the caller then told him to go to buy iTunes vouchers from Tesco, so he consequently went to Tesco in Bexhill-On-Sea and tried to obtain £1500 worth.

The manager at Tesco asked him lots of questions and became suspicious and told the victim this was a scam. The caller was still on his mobile phone while he was trying to buy the vouchers. The Tesco manager asked to talk to him and when he did the caller on the end of the phone swore at the manager. Luckily no money was parted with and the incident was reported to the Police.

These are some of the contact methods used to defraud people in Sussex:

- **Voicemails:** saying you owe HMRC unpaid tax.
- **Text messages:** fraudsters send you a text message requesting you to urgently call back on the number provided.

Protect yourself

- ❶ HMRC will never use a text message to inform you about a tax rebate or penalty.
- ❶ HMRC will never ask for any payment in the form of iTunes Vouchers. As well as iTunes vouchers, HMRC would not ask for payment in the form of any other vouchers or any other payment methods. HMRC will never use texts to tell you about a tax rebate or penalty or ever ask for payment in this way.

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud call Sussex Police on 101 or visit www.sussex.police.uk
If you need to a report fraud or attempted fraud, you can do so by contacting Action Fraud at or by calling 0300 123 2040. You can also read the latest Action Fraud alerts at or by following @actionfrauduk on Twitter.

