



TARIAN

MONTHLY FRAUD ALERT

July 2024



DIET PILLS SCAMS

Scammers have always tried to market and sell fake diet pills in order to steal your personal and financial data or send you a counterfeit product

This latest scam uses AI-generated images of weight-loss case studies and sends victims to a fake news website.

One of the posts says: 'Finally I found an effective method following my friend's recommendation! In just 20 days, my family was amazed by my transformation.'

It then instructs you to click the link in the comments so that the poster can 'share their joy with everyone'.

The link is created using a link shortener, which disguises the true website address. The accounts behind these posts are normally scam accounts, with no other activity or posts apart from posts similar to these.

ROMANCE FRAUD

Romance scammers steal millions from victims by grooming them on social media, messaging services and dating apps.

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, which analyses data for Action Fraud, has revealed there were 8,792 reports of romance fraud last year - an increase of nearly 10% compared to the previous year. It also reported that victims of romance fraud lost almost £100m last year.

Fraudsters will always try to move communications away from dating sites onto social media and messaging sites. They will often try to get their victims to start trading stocks and to invest in cryptocurrencies.

Romance fraudsters will often build up a relationship with their victims over long periods of time before they start creating stories that will elicit money from their victims.



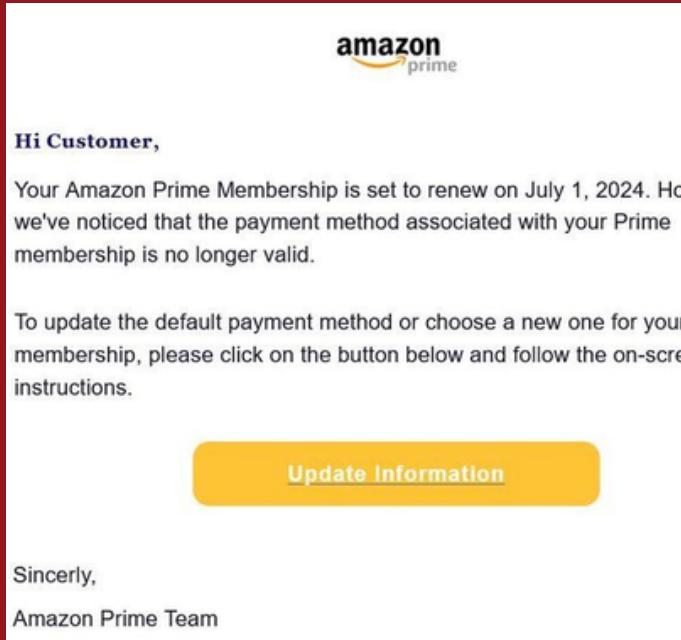
If you think you've uncovered a fraud, been targeted by a fraud or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on [0300 123 2040](tel:03001232040) or via the Action Fraud website.



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AMAZON PHISHING EMAIL

A scam email impersonating Amazon tells you that your payment method is 'no longer valid' and your Prime Membership is about to renew.

It goes on to provide a link to a malicious website under the guise of updating this information.

This is where scammers will attempt to steal your personal and financial data.

Never click on any links that are sent via email or text. Always search for the company through your preferred search engine (e.g. Google or Bing) and log into your account that way.

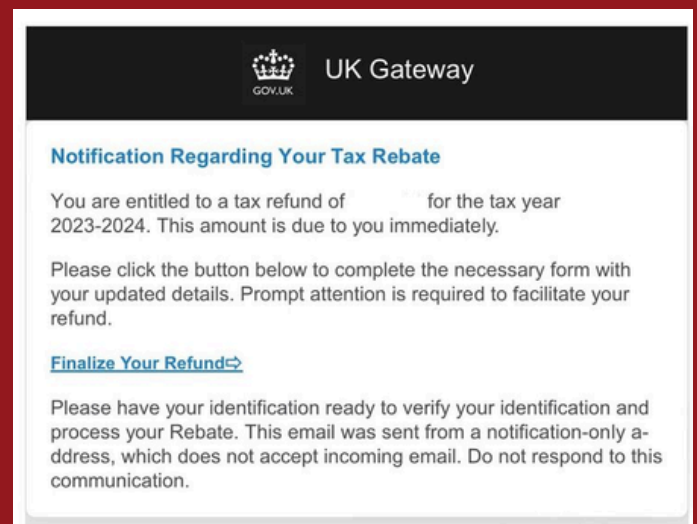
GOVERNMENT TAX REBATE EMAIL

An email telling you that you're eligible for a tax refund is a scam impersonating HMRC.

The email includes a 'UK Gateway' logo and a link to a malicious website which will ask for your personal and financial information.

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

Always look out for spelling mistakes and grammatical errors. If you're ever in doubt, use your preferred search engine to visit your Government Gateway account, or call 0300 200 3300 to check if you are due a tax rebate. You can forward suspicious emails to HMRC's phishing team phishing@hmrc.gov.uk



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Advice

Always remember: if something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Never give anyone your bank PIN or National Insurance number.

Shred or tear up any letters that include your personal details.

Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links in an email.

Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment that you're not comfortable with.

Create strong passwords.

Never use the same password for everything.

Never tell anyone answers to your security questions.

Reporting

If you think you've uncovered a fraud, been targeted by a fraud or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via the Action Fraud website.

If you have been a victim of Fraud, contact your bank immediately.

Support

Take 5 - <https://www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>

Citizens Advice - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/wales/>

Crime Stoppers - Call 0800 555 111

Age Cymru - Call 0300 303 44 98

Victim Advice Line - Call 0800 952 3000