

**In the know**  
Surrey and Sussex

**Action Fraud**  
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre  
0300 123 2040



## Action Fraud Have Received Reports of Covid19 Related Scams

Sarah,

*Please note, this is the second in a series of messages we are sending over the next few days, all relating to the current situation. This email does contain links, please click [here for guidance](#) about whether you can trust links in emails.*

Action Fraud have received reports of #COVID19 related scams. The majority relate to the online sale of protective items such as facemasks and other items in short supply due to the outbreak, that don't exist..

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/alert/coronavirus-related-fraud-reports>

**SCAM WARNING**

**ActionFraud**  
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting I  
actionfraud.police.uk

# Coronavirus-related frauds increase by 400% in March

Between 1st February 2020 and 18th March 2020, Action Fraud has received **105 reports** from victims of coronavirus-related fraud with losses totalling close to **£970,000**. The majority of the reports are related to online shopping scams where people have ordered protective face masks, hand sanitiser, and other products, which have never arrived. We have also received over **200 reports** about coronavirus-themed phishing emails attempting to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing sensitive personal and financial information.

**Watch out for scam messages:**  
Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details

**Shopping online:** If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. Where possible, use a credit card to make the payment, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases.

**Protect your devices from the latest threats:**  
Always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats

(Click the image to see a larger version)

## What scams are we seeing?

The majority of reports are related to [online shopping](#) scams where people have ordered protective face masks, hand sanitiser and other products, which have never arrived. Other frauds being reported include [ticket fraud](#), [romance fraud](#), [charity fraud](#) and [lender loan fraud](#)

## Protection advice

Detailed counter fraud advice is available online, including from [Scamsmart](#), [ActionFraud](#), [CIFAS](#), [TakeFive](#), [Citizens Advice](#), [Trading Standards](#) and the [National Cyber Security Centre](#).

Reporting to Action Fraud can be done online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or by calling 0300 123 2040.

To report offers of financial assistance from HMRC contact [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk).

## How are we doing?

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Best regards

### ***Message Sent By***

Action Fraud Admin (Action Fraud, Administrator, Global)

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