

Telephone Fraud

New Telephone Fraud Trend Hits South Worcestershire

A new fraud trend has recently hit the UK where fraudsters contact victims claiming to be from Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and trick them into paying bogus debts and taxes.

Yesterday at about 18:00 hrs a resident of Upton Snodsbury received a call. A male claiming to be from the Inland Revenue stated that outstanding tax payments had resulted in a warrant for the persons arrest due to them not completing paperwork that had been sent out to them. The male demanded National Insurance and bank details and said if these weren't given then they would coming to the address to arrest the occupant

Thankfully the call was immediately recognised as a scam and no money was lost. The aggressive nature of the call was clearly designed to result in an immediate payment through fear of arrest. The elderly and vulnerable may be particularly susceptible to this type of scam so please let friends and relatives know.

This new trend has been used by scammers in the USA who have been posing as police, attorneys, debt collectors and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents.

How to protect yourself:

HMRC will never use texts to tell you about a tax rebate or penalty or ever ask for payment in this way.

Telephone numbers and text messages can easily be spoofed. You should never trust the number you see on your telephones display.

If you receive a suspicious cold call, end it immediately.