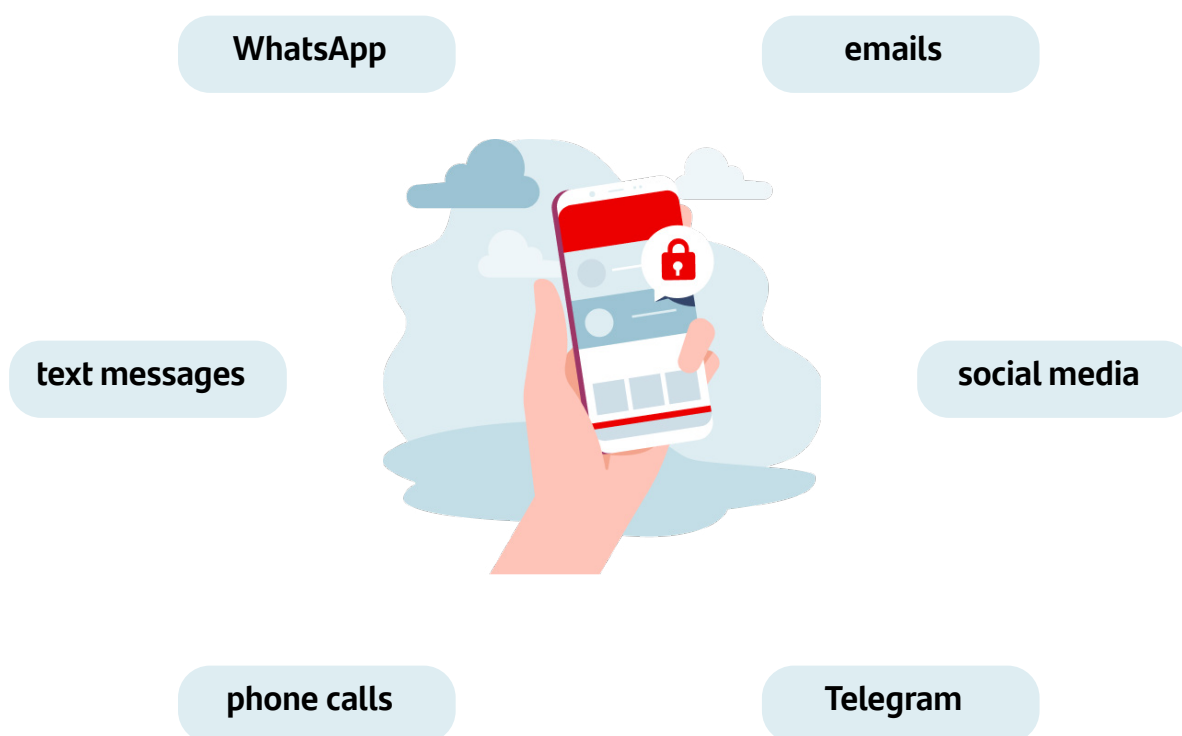


With these scams, criminals pose as HMRC to try and persuade you to send them money. For example, they could send an outstanding bill or tax rebate messages. They might tell you to pay them urgently, or click a link to give your account details for a refund. They may even threaten you with court action, bailiffs, or police arrest if you don't take urgent action.

These scammers can contact you at any time of year, though they tend to be more frequent as tax assessment deadline dates approach.



How to protect yourself from HMRC scams

- ✓ **Never** make a payment to HMRC if they contact you out of the blue, even if you're threatened with police or court action.
- ✓ **Always** check what you owe directly with HMRC on the GOV.UK website.
- ✓ **Never** rely on the number on the caller display as proof that it's HMRC you're talking to. This can be faked (known as spoofing) by a criminal to look like they're calling from HMRC or any other organisation.
- ✓ **Never** be pressured into giving personal or financial information to anyone.

Remember: HMRC will never call you out of the blue about a claim, payment or debt that you don't already know about and will never call threatening legal action.



TO STOP FRAUD™

Take Five to Stop Fraud

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment. [Visit the Take Five website for more information.](#)

It could protect you and your money.