



## **Scam awareness**

Scams Awareness Fortnight 2020 takes place over two weeks, from the 15-28 June.

Unfortunately, people need to be more aware of scams than ever this year as many new scams have emerged because of the coronavirus outbreak. Scams to look out for include:

- advertising face masks or medical equipment at high prices
- emails or texts pretending to be from the government
- emails offering life insurance against coronavirus
- people knocking at your door and asking for money for charity

If you receive emails or texts about coronavirus from someone you don't know, or from an unusual email address or mobile number, don't click on any links or buy anything. Never give money or personal details to someone you don't know or trust - for example someone who knocks on the door and offers to help.

Get in touch with us if you would like more information about spotting a scam, or what to do if you think you've been scammed.

### **Reporting a scam**

You might be able to stop others from being scammed if you report a scam. You should report the scam to more than one organisation - report it to:

- the Citizens Advice consumer helpline – 0808 223 1133
- the police – contact them immediately by calling 101 if the scammer is in your area or if you've transferred money to the scammer in the last 24 hours
- Action Fraud – online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime>) or by calling 0300 123 2040
- HMRC phishing team – contact them by email on [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk) if you've received a suspicious email, text message or phone call from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- Royal Mail – contact them by email on [scam.mail@royalmail.com](mailto:scam.mail@royalmail.com) or call 0800 011 3466 if you've been scammed by post

Give as much information as you can - for example, dates, names and email addresses.

If you've been threatened with violence, report it to the police on 101.

See our Facebook and Twitter pages for the latest scams affecting the local area.

**For more information or help about scams, fraud and consumer matters, please contact Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre at 64 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 6DP Email: [info@pwadvice.org](mailto:info@pwadvice.org) Tel: 01892 838619**