

Black Friday will soon be here, one of the biggest days in the shopping calendar

It can be a great day to pick up Xmas prezzies. But it's also a great day for scammers to take you for a ride.

Read CyberAware.Gov's top tips to stay safe online:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/shopping-online-securely>

Three Random Words

Staying safe online doesn't have to mean complicated P3s5w0rds!

CyberAware.Gov recommends using Three Random Words to create a memorable password that's strong

and separate from your other accounts. Learn more:

<https://cyberaware.gov.uk/>

2 Step Verification

Double up on protecting your account security.

2-Step Verification gives you twice the protection so even if cyber criminals have your password, they can't access your account. Read more at CyberAware.Gov:

<https://cyberaware.gov.uk/>

Check Before You buy

Check before you buy.

CyberAware.Gov recommends researching online retailers, particularly if you haven't bought from them before, to check they're the real deal.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/shopping-online-securely>

Secure payments

Pay securely this festive season.

If you have a credit card – use it. If the worst happens, your credit card provider is obliged to help. Use payment platforms like PayPal, Google or Apple Pay where possible. Learn more at CyberAware.Gov:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/shopping-online-securely>

Scam Alert – Automated telephone cold calls claiming to be from HMRC

Agencies are again receiving reports from Norfolk residents about telephone cold calls claiming to be from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

Recent reports have included an automated recorded message calls which states they are from 'HMRC' and that 'a case for unpaid tax has been raised against you' and that 'you must press 1 to speak to a supervisor or a warrant for your immediate arrest will be issued'.

Often these calls come from a range of different 'spoofed' numbers and previously residents have reporting receiving a number of calls in quick succession.

These calls are **not genuine** and **do not** come from HMRC. If you or someone you know receive this, or a call making similar claims or threats, **do not** interact with the call in any way and **hang up immediately**

For more information about bogus contacts and phishing emails claiming to be from HMRC go to the

[GOV.UK website](#)

You can also report suspicious HMRC phone calls received via this [GOV.UK online form](#), where possible including the:

date of the call

phone number used

content of the call

Suspected scam telephone calls can be reported to Trading Standards via their partners, the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **freephone 0808 223 1133**