



Business Bulletin

- cutting the cost of cyber scams

Following a recent spate of fraudsters pretending to be from the Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) Towergate Insurance felt that now would be the right time to highlight how criminals are stealing from unsuspecting motorists.

According to the DVLA*, criminals send fake texts and emails to unsuspecting motorists in a bid to steal their personal information and bank details. **In the last three months of 2018 alone, a worrying 1,275 reports were made to the agency* about suspected online scams.**

In a bid to crack down, **the DVLA has now released 7 tips to avoid becoming a victim** of online car tax fraud.

1. Only use gov.uk websites when looking for information online so you know the service you're using is legitimate.
2. Watch out for scam emails. The DVLA never asks for personal information via email, so if you receive one, ignore it.
3. Don't use third party websites that charge additional fees for services free-of-charge on gov.uk websites.
4. Never use a premium-rate phone number to call the DVLA. All DVLA contact centre numbers begin with 0300 and are charged at local rates.

5. Don't share images of your licence or vehicle documents on social media to protect yourself from would-be thieves looking to steal your identity. Posting on social media is an everyday occurrence for most people however you may not realise the risk of setting yourself up as a prime target for fraudulent activity.
6. Ignore any text messages about vehicle tax refunds. The DVLA never sends texts, so delete them immediately.
7. Report any suspected scams to Action Fraud immediately to help keep you and others safe from fraudsters.

We urge our clients to stay vigilant and avoid being caught out.

Looking after business. Taking care of people.