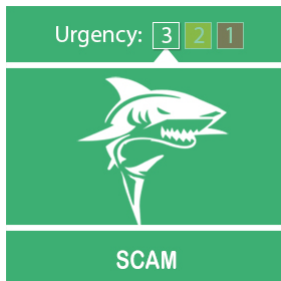


New quishing alert: £3.5 million lost last year to fraudulent QR codes [#458316854]

alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk | FRI JUN 20 11:26 AM | 5 minute(s) read



New quishing alert: £3.5 million lost last year to fraudulent

Action Fraud is urging people to look out for rogue QR codes, after 784 reports Action Fraud between April 2024 and April 2025, with almost £3.5 million lost.



ActionFraud
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre
www.actionfraud.police.uk

Metropolitan Police
CITY OF LONDON
POLICE

A new alert has been issued by Action Fraud, warning about quishing, a form of QR code scam. When a QR code is scanned, designed to steal personal and financial information. The warning says to stay vigilant and double check QR codes to see if they are malicious, or have been tampered with. It also advises not to scan QR codes online or in public spaces.

Claire Webb, Acting Director of Action Fraud, said:

“QR codes are becoming increasingly common in everyday life, whether it’s scanning a QR code for parking, or receiving an email asking to verify an online account. However, reports are increasingly using quishing as a way to trick the public out of their personal information.”

“We’re urging people to stop and check before scanning QR codes, to avoid becoming a victim. Look out for QR codes that may have been tampered with in open spaces, or emails that include rogue codes. If you’re in doubt, contact the organisation directly. You can report quishing, on our website at www.actionfraud.police.uk to help protect yourself.”

Action Fraud can reveal that quishing happens most frequently in car parks, with tamper with QR codes on parking machines. Quishing also occurred on online sellers received a QR code via email to either verify accounts or to receive payment.

Reports also showed phishing attacks were taking place impersonating HMRC, schemes, targeting people with QR codes designed to steal personal and financial information.

What can you do avoid being a victim of quishing?

- QR codes used in pubs or restaurants are usually safe to scan.
- Scanning QR codes in open spaces (like stations and car parks) might pose a risk that codes may have been tampered with (usually by a sticker placed over the legitimate code). In doubt, do not scan them: use a search engine to find the official website or app for the business to make a payment to.
- If you receive an email with a QR code in it, and you're asked to scan it, you should be suspicious. There has been an increase in these types of 'quishing' attacks.
- Finally, we recommend that you use the QR-scanner that comes with your phone or a separate app downloaded from an app store.

If you receive a suspicious email, report it by forwarding it to phishing@report.scot.nhs.uk.

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>

If you've been a victim of fraud, report it at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 101. In Scotland, contact Police Scotland on 101.



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