



**POLICE**  
**SCOTLAND**  
**POILEAS ALBA**

# Cyber Security Alert

Fake US Police Scam

Police Scotland Cyber and Fraud Unit.  
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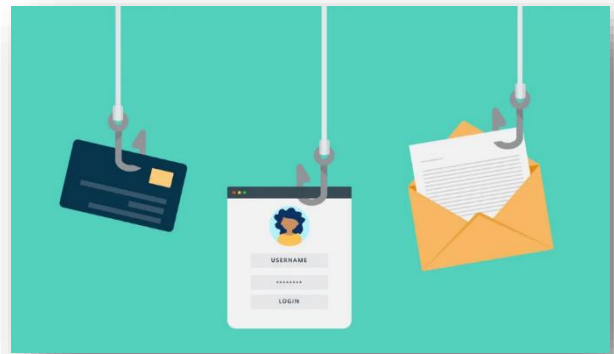


## **Fake US Police department email scam.**

It is reasonable that every person and organisation connected to the internet should, at some stage, expect to receive a scam email, text or message. This is a constant threat which universal connectivity brings and, due to the ease and minimal technical skill required, phishing attacks can be targeted at numerous online connected websites and accounts with ease.

This being the case it is essential we are prepared, when we receive a phishing email, in being able to detect, deter, respond to and recover from any consequences, but also to share awareness to support and protect others.

Recently, cybercriminals set up a fake US Police Department website calling itself the **Utopia Police Department**. The cybercriminals then sent out a series of scam emails from this site, initially targeting residents local to that area in Texas USA.



The scam emails, understood to have originated from a different country, were written with authority and urgency, in terms of an ongoing enquiry and reference to recipients of the email obstructing the law if they did not provide their personal information including bank details and home addresses, placing them under duress and confusion.

Law Enforcement in the area have issued local awareness of this threat and for recipients not to respond.

Such is the reach of online connectivity it is understood similarly titled scam emails have now been received by organisations in Scotland.

As a result, we can share wider awareness of this scam in order that you are informed and prepared in terms of your response should you receive a scam email, text or message.

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Responding to a scam or phishing email is a process which, for some, may sound daunting as they can affect us and our response in different ways.

To offer support, the guidance [here](#) from our trusted partners at the NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) will help you with a structured approach to spotting and reporting scam emails, texts, websites and calls.

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, you may also forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) even if you are not certain it is a scam.

*Please note that you are not formally reporting to Police via this option – you will have to do that separately.*

It is important to note that Police Scotland will never send out emails asking for recipients to provide personal or banking information of any kind.

Please feel free to share this awareness with your own contacts

If you have been a victim of crime, and it is not an ongoing emergency, you can report this to Police Scotland on 101.

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