



Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees

Security Alert

Tax time fraud

Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees is committed to protecting its customers against any potential threats to personal banking security. As such, we would like to make sure all customers are aware of the scams and fraud attempts currently circulating.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) are urging all consumers and small businesses to be mindful of scammers that are taking advantage of the busy nature of tax time to target you. Scammers may contact you by phone or email, pretending to be from the ATO, and will attempt to trick you into handing over your personal details or money. Some of the common tax time scams include:

- Scammers claiming that you have overpaid your tax and are entitled to a refund, but not before you pay a tax or administration fee upfront to unlock your funds.
- Scammers claiming that you owe money due to a miscalculation from the previous financial year.
- Scammers impersonating an ATO representative to 'fish' for your details by asking you to verify them over the phone.

Be careful. These scammers often create official looking emails and professional-looking websites that mirror the ATO site to capture your details and convince you that they're the real deal. They may even recite some personal information about you to strengthen their position, however these days it's easy for scammers to get a hold of personal information from social media and other networking forums.

Remember, your personal details, including your Tax File Number and financial details are valuable and should never be provided to a stranger. You should also be very wary of any requests to send money via money transfer as it can be very difficult to recover money sent this way.

Protect yourself

If you receive a call or email out of the blue from someone claiming to represent the ATO – just hang up or delete it. Especially if they're claiming that you're entitled to money, or that you owe tax. Also make sure you don't open attachments, click on links, or reply to any suspicious emails – they may take you to a fake website or contain a malicious virus.

You can confirm whether or not potential scammers truly represent the ATO by calling the ATO on its official contact number: **13 28 69**. The ATO also advises that if you use a tax agent; make sure they are registered by checking at www.tpb.gov.au/onlineregister.

We take the safety and security of our customers' banking and personal details very seriously, so if you're unsure about anything, or feel your account may be at risk, please don't hesitate to contact us on 1300 138 044, drop into your nearest branch or visit our [Security](#) page.

You can stay on top of current fraud and scam attempts by visiting the Australian Government's [SCAMwatch](#) and [Stay Smart Online](#) websites.