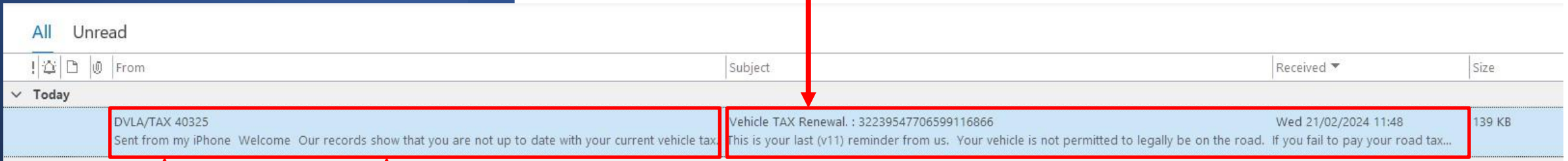


What I noticed...

E-mail **Subject** suggests a last reminder for vehicle tax

As a vehicle owner you might think: *"I'd better action this promptly so I don't risk receiving a ticket or fine, getting your vehicle clamped or towed"* etc



DVLA = Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency

This is a UK governmental department... or is it?

Appearance of some kind of DVLA/TAX reference number

BUT... sent from 'myiPhone'? For a government function? In the UK?

According to the last verified e-mail I got from the DVLA (I checked!) their system e-mail suffix ends in 'gov.uk'

About that sender...

'100031006' = depending on who has administrative permissions for this e-mail this number could mean something or be random

'cientifica' = translates to 'scientific' in Portuguese & Spanish




'edu' = domain name for a University or college, but could be spammed / misused

'pe' = top-level domain for Peru



Vehicle TAX Renewal. : 32239547706599116866

 DVLA/TAX 40325 <100031006@cientifica.edu.pe>
To [Redacted]

 Reply  Reply All  Forward 
Wed 21/02/2024 11:48

Welcome

Our records show that you are not up to date with your current vehicle tax.

This is your last (v11) reminder from us.

Your vehicle is not permitted to legally be on the road.

If you fail to pay your road tax you may face a fine or other penalties.

You must fill out the form below to be up to standard with the DVLA legal requirements.



Hypothetically this e-mail *could* part of some research project into cybersecurity... but it certainly isn't from the DVLA in the UK

Recommendation: do **not** trust the sender, the message or any links or files associated with it

About that message...

This text appears to be scripted to prompt a state of concern or anxiety in the reader

It is a call to action to click that big, green 'Start Now' button

Don't. That would be a mistake

When concerned or anxious we may stop thinking clearly

When we stop thinking clearly we are at greater risk of making mistakes

Vehicle TAX Renewal. : 32239547706599116866 - Message (HTML)

File Message Help

Delete Archive Reply Reply All Forward All Apps Quick Steps Move Tags Editing Immersive Translate Zoom

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START NOW

About that big, green button...

Hovering (**not** clicking!) the mouse cursor over the '*Start Now*' button indicates it leads to a website that references the '.es' top-level domain for Spain.

You must fill out the form below to be up to standard with the DVLA legal requirements.

<https://www.radiostream.es/radiostream1>
Click or tap to follow link.

START NOW

Insights...

- The e-mail sender does **not** appear to be legitimate
- The embedded hyperlink button directs to a website **not** associated with the DVLA

NB: at this stage I access my vehicle tax details through the actual DVLA website to validate the facts (my vehicle tax is nowhere near overdue)

Conclusion...

- This appears to be a social engineering attempt (type = 'Phishing') to direct me away from trusted online sources
- Doing so increases the likelihood of further exposure to information security threats
- Take the following actions:
 - Block the e-mail sender
 - Delete the e-mail
 - Share the information via reliable means