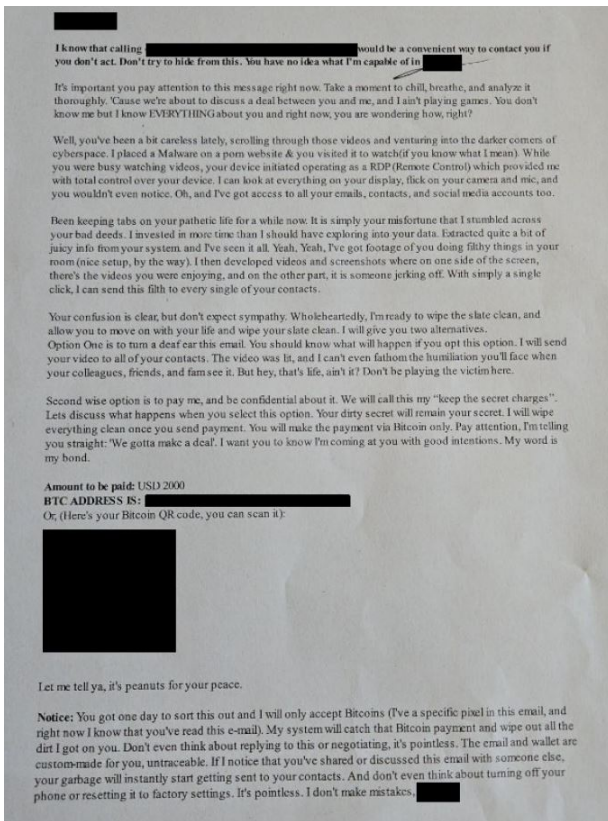


# Fraud Alert - Extortion Emails

Written by Matt Weir | September 26, 2024 at 08:18:am



File: 24-7194

The Saint John Police are warning the public about an extortion email fraud occurring in our area.

## How it works:

The extortion letters contain the full name, personal telephone number, personal residential address as well as a screenshot from search engines of the recipient's residence. The extortion letter claims that the recipient has visited explicit websites and threatens to send a copy of a video to the recipient's contact list unless payment via cryptocurrency is made. A variation of the letter may contain a QR code.

Like other extortion scams, fraudsters are attempting to scare victims into sending funds. Extortion scams are defined as "when someone unlawfully obtains money, property or services from a person, entity, or institution through coercion."

## **Safety Recommendations:**

- Do not scan QR Codes provided by an unknown source. They could infect your device.
- If you received a message threatening, report it to your local police immediately.
- Remember that fraudsters use high-pressure intimidation tactics to try to steal your money.
- Ensure that your social media profiles are at the highest privacy levels.
- Limit sharing personal details on social media.
- Should you believe any of your personal information has been compromised, you are encouraged to contact Equifax and TransUnion to flag your accounts.
- Be suspicious of any unsolicited messages or social media requests including those that are threatening or accuse you of owing money for a service you never used or planned to have.
- Do not send money under pressure.
- Do not reply to threatening messages.
- Learn more [tips on how to protect yourself](#).

The best defence against this type of fraud is awareness and caution.  
Together a safe, secure, healthy community.

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