

COUNCIL TAX REBATE SCAM

Staffordshire Trading Standards are warning local residents following numerous reports of people receiving telephone calls or emails claiming to be offering council tax or income tax rebates.

A local resident was recently contacted by a caller claiming to be from the Head of British Councils in London. They advised that she was owed a rebate on her council tax and tried to get her to part with her bank account details. In this instance, the resident refused and questioned the caller who hung up.

Other residents state that the callers have given them telephone numbers and reference numbers to try and prove themselves to be genuine callers.

Many reports have also been received from people who have been sent emails claiming to be from HMRC advising that they are entitled to an income tax rebate.

We advise everyone to be on their guard and to not give out bank account or credit / debit card details over the telephone, internet or doorstep.

HMRC state they will not contact anybody by email to advise of a tax rebate. They also advise they do not issue tax rebates via Paypal.

If you are in any doubt about the authenticity of a call, then check with the organisation they are claiming to represent. You can find the telephone number for local District or Borough Councils in the phone book or on your council tax bill. Don't use a number provided by a caller who you think may not be genuine.

If you think you may have been contacted by a scammer such as this, please report it to Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

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All our alerts are available in a range of formats and languages, including large print. Please contact Community Development if this would be helpful to you, or to someone you know. Address: 14 Martin Street, Stafford, ST16 2LG. community.development@staffordshire.gov.uk

