



Warning: Council Tax Rebate Scam

Background

Warrington and Halton Trading Standards would like residents to be on their guard following a report of a Council Tax Rebate scam.

A Warrington resident received a telephone call allegedly from the Borough Council advising her that she had been wrongly banded for Council Tax and was due a substantial rebate. The caller confirmed the residents correct personal details including date of birth, and then requested bank details in order for the rebate to be paid. Fortunately the resident felt uncomfortable with the request and the call was terminated.

No council would ever contact a resident in this manner on such issues. Generally when refunding an overpaid amount, if details are already held then refunds will be paid automatically into the bank. If not, then a straightforward cheque refund will be issued in the post.

Further reports have emerged from around the country that there are a number of variations on the scam. Home owners are being contacted over the telephone or on the doorstep and told they had paid either too much or too little council tax. On each occasion bank details are requested.

Further information

Please remain vigilant and pass this message on to family members, friends and neighbours.

If you do fall victim to this sort of crime please report the incident to Cheshire Police on 0845 458 0000

For general consumer information contact Trading Standards on 08454 04 05 06 or visit www.consumerdirect.gov.uk

www.tswarrington.co.uk
tradingstandards@warrington.gov.uk

visit www.tswarrington.co.uk/iCAN to download the ten most recent messages in flyer format

Promoting fair & safe trading, protecting you

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