

We have been made aware of some scams relating to reducing your Council Tax. Be aware of scams and remain cautious when receiving unsolicited calls, emails and correspondence. Check if you aren't sure, ring us on 01706 217777 or visit our website at www.rossendale.gov.uk

1. Council Tax Reduction Scam [1]

Fraudsters are circulating an email which appears to be from GOV.UK Government Digital Service Team advising the resident of eligibility to a council tax reduction stating "this used to be called council tax benefit". The email includes a link to claim the reduction where the resident is asked to input to provide their bank details.

The email says 'Dear mrbloggs@hotmail.co.uk [instead of being addressed to Dear Mr Bloggs], It contains limited information but says entitlement will be transferred to a credit or debit card. The email contains a link to claim the Council Tax Reduction.

Residents of Rossendale can only apply for a Council Tax Reduction through the Rossendale Council website www.rossendale.gov.uk If you qualify for a Council Tax Reduction, Rossendale Council will reduce your Council Tax liability and issue a revised Council Tax bill showing your Council Tax Reduction.

2. Council Tax Reduction Scam [2]

In another area fraudsters have sent letters residents on doctored letter headed paper, producing the appearance of legitimate local authority council tax correspondence. The letter informs the resident of council tax support scheme eligibility and provides a false website link htrcb.info and gives the resident a unique access code where they are asked to insert their UK bank details; this website is fake.

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3. Council Tax Reduction Scam [3]

Some residents of Waltham Forest Council have been targeted by Fraudsters. They received a letter addressed to 'The Occupier' purporting to be from Council and offering potential reductions in council tax as part of the Government's response to COVID-19. The letter directs the recipient to the website gov.waltham-support.co.uk, which is not a secure .gov.uk website or the local authority website. It further prompts the resident to enter a 6-digit reference number where their address is displayed and they are asked to provide personal information. Both the letter and the website are fake but we have been advised they are convincing and of good quality. The letter contains language which is not the standard of legitimate local authority correspondence.

4. Council Tax Payment Reduction Scam

A company calling themselves Greyston have been cold calling people claiming to be able to secure a property reduction resulting in reduced payments. The company advises of a fee and seeks bank details during the initial telephone call. The telephone number provided for Greyston is 0203 887 7104. This number has been linked with other fraudulent schemes.

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