FRAUD ALERT

Winter Heating Allowance Scam

We are warning residents of Kent to be on high alert for a **fraudulent text message** claiming to be from the **Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)** regarding the **Winter Heating Allowance** for 2025–2026.

What to watch out for:

- The scam text message may say: *"Winter Heating Subsidy Reminder: You are eligible to apply. Please update your information via the link."*

- It may include a **fake deadline** (example: "apply by 31st July 2025") to create urgency.

- The link provided often mimics a government website but is **not genuine** (example: gov.winterpaymentdu.top).

- Victims are asked to enter **personal or financial details**, which are then used for fraud.

Remember:

- The **genuine Winter Fuel Payment** is **automatically issued** to eligible individuals. **No application is required** in most cases.

- The **DWP will never** ask you to apply via unofficial links or third-party websites.

- Always check information directly at: www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment

If you receive a suspicious text message:

- **Do NOT click any links** or **respond** to suspicious text messages

- **Report** it by forwarding the text message to **7726**

- **Report** scams to **Action Fraud** at www.actionfraud.police.uk.