

## Press release

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### **Christmas Safety Tips from Hackney Homes' PC Whelan**

It's that time of the year when buying presents, cooking, meeting friends and family is top of our agenda. We sometimes forget that it is also the perfect time for intruders to pry into our homes to steal and commit crime. That is why Hackney Homes has asked Police Constable Sean Whelan to give top tips on staying safe at home this Christmas.

PC Whelan says: "It's important for residents to take responsibility for their possessions whether at home, out shopping or socialising. Many thefts and burglaries can be prevented. Here are some tips on how:

- Look at your home through a burglars eyes -where are the weak security spots? Go outside and have a look through your windows what can you see?
- If your Christmas tree is near the window, don't leave gifts underneath it;
- After Christmas don't advertise new items like audio-visual equipment by leaving the boxes on display outside. Fold them up and put them in the bins, and:
- Remove keys from locked windows and don't leave them on display.

Christmas also sees a dramatic rise in the numbers of fires and accidents in the home. According to The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, (ROSPA), around 80,000 people suffer accidents and injuries in their homes during the Christmas holidays every year. Many of those happen in the kitchen during food preparation, while putting up decorations – or worse, as a result of faulty fairy lights or unattended candles. As well as taking necessary safety precautions, remember that when your home is filled with party guests and overexcited children, accidents can happen.

Press queries to Dee Mackey on 0208 356 3528 or email [dee.mackey@hackneyhomes.org.uk](mailto:dee.mackey@hackneyhomes.org.uk)