

## Media release

13 November 2008

### **Hackney Homes Gas safety team avert ‘time-bomb’**

#### **Tenant fixes large propane gas cylinder to a gas cooker**

Hackney Homes gas and estate safety teams and police officers averted a ‘time-bomb’ at a property in Clapton – after discovering that a Hackney Homes tenant had fixed a large propane gas cylinder to a gas cooker.

The potentially explosive discovery was made after unsuccessful attempts to enter the property as part of the routine gas safety checks meant that we had to force entry Court under warrant with the Police on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

On entering the property a significant quantity of “skunk” cannabis was found on a table top and the tenant was arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Whilst inspecting the gas supply, we discovered that the tenant had illegally rigged up a propane gas cylinder to his cooker – illegal under the Gas Regulations and one that creates a potential explosive device of some danger. The gas supply has been made safe and the offending propane supply removed.

Chair of Hackney Homes Rupert Tyson said: “We find that a small percentage of residents don’t let us in for gas servicing because they have something to hide. Working with our Estate Safety Team we’ve uncovered illegal sub-letting, squatting, drug laboratories and other illegal activities.”

“By uncovering these activities we’ve been able to take action and ensure more homes are available for residents on the housing waiting list.”

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

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Our mission is to deliver excellent, responsive housing services with decent homes and estates. To help residents lead healthy lives in safe and sustainable communities.

[www.hackneyhomes.org.uk](http://www.hackneyhomes.org.uk)

- **Hackney Homes** is an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) launched in April 2006 to manage the Council's social housing stock. Hackney Homes is led by a board which includes residents, councillors and independent representatives and is responsible for managing 22,000 tenanted properties and 8,000 leasehold properties in the borough. For further information visit [www.hackneyhomes.org.uk](http://www.hackneyhomes.org.uk)