

Press release

19 November 2008

Hackney Homes tenant wins a month rent free

A whole month's rent for free. Just for paying by direct debit? That was the prize on offer for all tenants who were either paying their rent by direct debit or had signed up over the past year.

The summer rent campaign saw nearly 200 tenants sign up bringing the total number of tenants paying by direct debit up to nearly three thousand.

The lucky winner, Mrs Britta Kronsbein-Nwanyanwu who lives in the Homerton neighbourhood was surprised at her win. She said: "I pay by direct debit because I can guarantee that event month my rent will be paid. I don't need to queue up in post offices or as the rent comes out automatically – I don't do anything actually".

Chief Executive of Hackney Homes Charlotte Graves said: "With such busy lives, Direct Debit is so useful. It allows our tenants to pay their rent automatically and it means that we can collect as much rent as possible to continually improve the services that we provide".

If you would like to pay your rent by direct debit, contact the Rents Team on 020 8356 2126 or download a form from the Hackney Homes Website www.hackneyhomes.org.uk

Ends

Press queries to Olaide Oyekanmi on 0208 356 3522, 0777 256 5514 or email olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes was launched in April 2006 and is responsible for managing council homes in Hackney. This includes managing council housing, collecting council housing rental, repairing and maintaining council homes.
- In addition to Direct Debit, tenants can also pay their rent online via the Hackney Homes website, via PayPoint, over the phone, at the post office or in the Cash Office.

- The Hackney website has an online benefits calculator for tenants who wish to find out how much housing and council tax benefit they may qualify for. Hackney Homes encourages all tenants to use this to ensure that they are claiming all the benefits that they are entitled to.