

Press release

31 January 2008

Hackney Homes takes pirates off the air

An ongoing campaign against pirate radio has led to five operations to take pirates off the air on Sunday 27 January on the Woodberry Down estate and in Shoreditch.

For the Hackney Homes' Estate Safety Team, who work to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour on housing estates, pirate radio presents a number of problems on estates.

Pirate radio is illegal and interferes with radio frequencies and there is a strong link between pirate radio and crime with many pirates using the air for communications about drugs and other illegal activity.

The masts & transmitters are usually found on the roofs of housing blocks and as well as being an eyesore pose a significant danger to residents if they fall off the roof.

On Sunday three officers from the estate safety team dismantled the mast and aerial from the roof of Burtonwood Court, on the Woodberry Down Estate. The transmitter was traced back to a lift motor room that the pirates had secured with their own padlocks.

In Shoreditch, the team removed three masts:

- Cherbury Court, St Johns Estate
- Shoreditch House Charles Square
- Charles Gardner Court, Haberdasher Estate

At Lincoln Court, Bethune Road, in Stoke Newington the team discovered a forty feet tall mast on the roof secured by four guy ropes and wired into the digital television system in the tank room. The team will return on Friday with contractors to remove the mast.

Operators of pirate radio face criminal prosecution and a possible jail sentence. All equipment is confiscated and if they are a tenant of Hackney Homes they can lose their tenancy as well.

Chair of Hackney Homes Rupert Tyson said: "Hackney Homes is serious about tackling anti-social behaviour in all its guises. Pirate radio is not a

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.

harmless activity - it causes misery to the lives of innocent residents who can be subject to intimidation by the pirates and are at risk of injury from the masts falling.”

Contact the estate safety team in confidence to report a pirate radio on 0208 356 3333.

Ends

Press queries to Chloe Goddard on 0208 356 3877 or chloe.goddard@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Olaide Oyekanmi on 0208 356 3522 or olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Media opportunity

9.30 am Friday 1st February Lincoln Court, Bethune Road, in Stoke Newington

Join the estate safety team as they dismantle a forty foot mast from the roof of the housing block.