METROPOLITAN POLICE TOTAL POLICING

West Hampstead Police Station
21 Fortune Green Road
West Hampstead
London
NW6 1DX

Telephone: 07467000621
Frognal.Fitzjohns.SNT@met.pnn.police.uk
www.met.police.uk

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To whom it may concern,

Frognal and Fitzjohns Safer Neighbourhood Team conducted a crime prevention visit to Mr Jamil Shamash of Flat 9, Merlin House, Oak Hill Park NW3; this was due to a burglary that had occurred at his property on 18th January 2020

After reviewing Mr Shamash's apartment security, we noted the easy access points to Mr Shamash's balcony, from the flat roof next to Merlin house and via the wall and secured trellising.

Unfortunately, we believe the trellising was used as the access point by the burglar(s) to gain entry into the property and steal his personal items.

With our crime prevention experience, we have suggested it would be a prudent measure to box in the balcony area, enhancing the security of the apartment. The flat roof of the garage area, which could potentially be used to gain access to Mr Shamash's balcony, also raised concern.

During the investigation of this burglary, we have learnt that the CCTV on the estate, is over an hour ahead of real time. What we would consider to be vulnerable spots on the estate, are not covered by CCTV at all. This includes the garage flat roof which is easily accessible by a small grass verge at Merlin House and Northwood Lodge.

Mr Shamash lives on his own after the loss of his wife and understandably he feels vulnerable. These crime prevention measures would make Mr Shamash feel more secure in his own home.

As a footnote; during the time of compiling of this letter, a second burglary has taken place at Oak Hill Park; this more recent burglary, is almost identical to the burglary at Mr Shamash's property, access gained via the balcony, with a flat roof on the garage area, next to Northwood Lodge.

We would strongly recommend that any crime prevention measures that can be implemented, by residents and management, are done so in order to deter any future incidents.

Yours sincerely,

Frognal and Fitzjohn's Safer Neighbourhood Team