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### SmartWater on the Square

The 2009 SmartWater bus is being launched in the Old Market Square on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 1200-12.30 by Nottinghamshire Police Chief Superintendent Shaun Beebe. Also on hand will be the Burglary Reduction Team who will be taking referrals from City

## **residents for SmartWater and offering a range of crime prevention advice.**

The SmartWater programme has been a great success since the program began in 2001. Over 30,000 homes and businesses across the city have had property security protected with SmartWater. There have been cases where the presence of Smartwater has been used as evidence to help secure convictions, including high profile cases where SmartWater traps have been deployed in Capture Houses and Capture Cars.

The red and yellow liveried bus shows the kinds of items which are easily protected by Smartwater like mobile phones, mp3 players, cycles, laptops and LCD TV's etc. The bus also lists areas around the city where property has been SmartWater protected and the contact details (0115 915 3071) for city residents to arrange for their property to be SmartWatered, whilst reminding them that this is a FREE service. The bus will be seen on Nottingham City Transport routes across the city for the next 12 months.

## **Burglary rates continue to fall**

The latest figures for the city (February 2009) show that burglaries have fallen by 7.65% on the same time last year (February 2008).

Figures for burglary in the city measured from 1st April-31st March show consistent reductions;

2003/04 = 7438

2004/05 = 6391

2005/06 = 5752

2006/07 = 5385

2007/08 = 4588

2008/09 to end February = 3935

Criminals fear SmartWater and how can it forensically link them to a crime and crime scene. Nottinghamshire Police routinely test for the presence of SmartWater at custody suites, portable UV lamps are also used routinely in the detection of Stolen Property.

Chief Superintendent Shaun Beebe said:

*"SmartWater is one of a range of initiatives that have been successfully deployed across the city. The Police along with Crime and Drugs Partnership have worked extensively to ensure local people are better protected against burglary.*

*We will continue to use all the resources at our disposal to reduce crime further and to target the criminal minority who prey on the vulnerability of others. I hope this bus will encourage even greater numbers of city residents to have their property protected with SmartWater and remind those who may be thinking of committing crime in the city to think again."*

## Notes to editors

### **What is SmartWater?**

- SmartWater is a clear fluid that can be painted onto property to enable the true owner to be identified if it is stolen.
- The SmartWater mark is invisible to the naked eye but can be detected by the Police using special lamps.
- SmartWater uses forensic science to give each householder a unique code which enables the Police to return stolen property to the rightful owner.
- The Police can also charge anyone found in possession of an item marked with SmartWater that does not belong to them.

It has proven to be an excellent deterrent to burglars.

Residents from across Nottingham are being encouraged to report problems in their area to the Nottingham City Council's **Anti-Social Behaviour Helpline** on **0115 915 2020**. Crime can be reported anonymously to **CrimeStoppers** on **0800 555 111**.

**SmartWater appointments can be booked by calling the Burglary Reduction Team on 0115 915 3701 or by booking online via the Nottingham City Council website at [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/smartwater](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/smartwater).**

