THE
CYBER
RESILIENCE
CENTRE
FOR THE NORTH WEST

Heading Home for Christmas Checklist

○ **Identify your most valuable assets with a cyber risk assessment**

Your cyber risk assessment should identify information assets that could be affected by a cyber-attack *(such as hardware, systems, devices, customer data, intellectual property, social media accounts etc).*

○ **Create strong passwords and consider a password manager**

Do not use the same password for multiple accounts, the best practice is to change them using three random words and a password manager will help you remember them all.

○ **Take regular backups of your data and test if they can be restored**

Identify what needs to be backed up *(usually documents, photos, emails, and calendars)* and ensure the device containing the backup is not permanently connected to the device holding the original copy.

○ **Do not promote your business as unoccupied**

Many businesses are guilty of promoting that their offices will be closed during the Christmas period. Avoid giving hackers an open invite into exploring the vulnerabilities of your systems and devices.

○ **Make a Cyber Incident Response Plan** - *should an attack occur*

A cyber security incident response plan provides a process that will help you to respond effectively in the event of a cyber-attack. **Download our Cyber Incident Plan here.**

○ **Turn on Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)**

Multi-Factor Authentication usually comes in the form of a code received by email or SMS. Using MFA provides greater assurance that the access request is genuine.

○ **Be sure to install anti-virus software and check it's working**

You should have antivirus software on all computers and devices and should only install approved software on tablets and smartphones. It is also advised to prevent users from downloading third-party apps from unknown sources.

○ **Become a member of The North West Cyber Resilience Centre**

It's FREE and easy to sign up for, quick to action and highly effective in helping your business to become more secure online.