

Five things you need to know today



The Meadows was a crime scene yesterday when the police cordoned an area off after an alleged rape in the morning. Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following a sexual assault which occurred in the Meadows area of the Capital in the early hours of yesterday morning (Tuesday).

The 19-year-old victim was walking through the Meadows around 3.30am when she was grabbed by two men, who subjected her to a sexual assault in an area of ground north of Melville Drive.

Both men are described as white, in their 20s, of average build, and wearing dark coloured hooded tops. Following the assault, they made off towards Bruntsfield Road.

A police spokesman said: "Although we know that the assault took place in the Meadows, we are still working to establish exactly where it happened, and we are appealing for any information that can assist our inquiries.

"Anyone who was in the area of the Meadows or Bruntsfield Links in the early hours of yesterday morning, who saw or heard anything suspicious, should contact police immediately.

"Similarly, anyone who saw two men matching the descriptions of the suspects in either the Meadows or Bruntsfield Links areas should also get in touch.

"At this time we have put in place extra patrols in the Meadows area overnight in order to provide reassurance to the public."

Anyone with any information should contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131, or Crimestoppers in confidence and complete anonymity on 0800 555 111.

[The Broughton Spurtle](#) broke the news to us yesterday that there may be an Olympic presence here in the capital next year with the planning application to put up Olympic rings at Edinburgh Castle...Apparently Historic Scotland has already approved the plan by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games for what The Spurtle describe as "2 enormous logos".

Plans to build a security hall at Holyrood have been branded pointless by Green MSP , Patrick Harvie, according to the [BBC](#). The parliament are applying to The City of Edinburgh Council for planning permission to add in the security feature.

The City of Edinburgh Council have [lost a court action brought by female employees](#) claiming the same pay as men doing similar jobs. (No don't look at the calendar, this is really a 21st century story) The solicitor representing the women said that she hoped the council do not appeal the case to the UK Supreme Court. However now that the legal premise is set, this will leave the door open for the women to lodge a claim at an employment tribunal.

Railnews brings you the lowdown on the consultation published this week on what services will be provided by the rail franchisees after 2014. That is when the current franchises run out. No alcohol and no trains from England travelling further north than Edinburgh are a couple of suggestions...You have until February 2012 to [put in your tuppence worth](#).