

# Police appeal for public help a week after armed robbery

Police in Edinburgh are making a renewed appeal for witnesses a week on from an armed robbery at a city centre jewellers.

The two culprits struck at Rox in George Street around 5.15pm last Tuesday, 15 January 2013, stealing jewellery worth approximately £1 million.

Both men were armed, one with an axe which he used to smash display cabinets, the other with a handgun. They are both described as being 20 to 30-years-old, and wearing jogging bottoms and hooded tops. They had their faces concealed.

After placing the jewellery in rucksacks both men escaped on a black Honda 650 motorcycle, which was later found abandoned in Northumberland Street North West Lane, along with the axe.

Officers will today go back to the scene in a bid to trace potential witnesses who may have been in the area around the time of the robbery.

The police will carry out high-visibility foot patrols and will speak to people in the area, and in addition a command vehicle will be situated in Howe Street, close to the junction with Northumberland Street, where officers will be available to speak to anyone who wishes to provide information.

Detective Chief Inspector Bobby Deas, who is leading the investigation, said:- "We are revisiting the scene in order to speak to those people who may have been in the area at the time, and who may have information that can assist our enquiries.

"Officers will be in the area from mid-afternoon into the

early evening, and I would encourage anyone who lives or works in the area, who thinks they have any information, however small or insignificant it may seem, to speak to officers.

“At present we have a large team of detective officers dedicated to this enquiry, and as part of our ongoing work we have been carrying out extensive CCTV enquiries, along with forensic analysis.

“We have had an excellent response from the public following our appeals for information, and I am hoping that today’s activity will result in more people coming forward.

“Our enquiries have suggested the culprits may have got into a taxi after abandoning the motorcycle, and we want to speak to any taxi driver who was working in the area around 5.30pm, who thinks they may have picked up the pair in the New Town area, near to Northumberland Street.

“Likewise anyone who saw two men in possession of rucksacks or bags in the Northumberland Street area is also asked to get in touch.”

Anyone with any information should contact Lothian and Borders Police on 0131 311 3131, or Crimestoppers, where information can be passed anonymously, on 0800 555 111.