

Police safety advice on Festival Fireworks

☒ Police Scotland have issued some key points to remember when attending the Virgin Money Festival Fireworks this Sunday. Their message as always is that they want to keep people safe.

The event, which marks the end of the Festival, will be supported by Police Scotland to ensure local residents and visitors alike, can make the most of the celebrations.

Around 14,000 spectators are expected within Princes Street Gardens for the ticketed display that takes place at 9pm on Sunday 1st September, with several thousand more due to attend at various vantage points across the city.

Areas such as Princes Street, The Mound, Calton Hill and Inverleith Park will attract large crowds and police will have a presence in each of these locations to assist with road closures and maintain public safety.

Operation Assure was launched at the start of August as part of Police Scotland's commitment to keeping people safe during the Festival and officers continue to offer safety messages and helpful advice for the public when out and about in Edinburgh.

Those attending the event are reminded that road closures will be in place and public transport routes may be affected.

Information on affected areas can be found on the city of Edinburgh Council website at

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/11103/festival_fireworks_road_closures_01_09_13 and changes to bus routes will be available via Lothian Buses.

In addition, crime prevention and personal safety advice is available by visiting the Police Scotland website at www.scotland.police.uk

Superintendent Graham Jones said: "The fireworks display on Sunday evening is a family event that attracts thousands of visitors and we are working closely with our partner agencies to make this a memorable, but more importantly, a safe evening.

"I would urge anyone travelling into the city centre to plan their journey in advance and be aware that many roads throughout the Capital will be subject to closures, which may also impact upon bus and taxi routes. Please check the respective agency websites for more information.

"Throughout the Festival officers have provided a high-visibility presence to engage with the public and offer crime prevention advice on keeping personal belongings safe. Anyone attending the display in Princes Street Gardens, or visiting the other vantage points is reminded to hold onto their possessions and never leave valuables unattended. Those who witness anyone or anything suspicious should contact police immediately.

"We would also remind people to enjoy the event responsibly and ensure alcohol does not ruin their evening. Many families and young people will be in attendance and we want to make sure everyone has a positive experience of the end of the Festival.

"Anyone looking for more information on how to keep themselves and their belongings safe can visit our website, or follow @EdinburghPolice on Twitter, where useful information has been provided throughout the Festival using #FestivalPolicing."