

Police thank shops in East Lothian for refusing to sell alcohol to youngsters



Police officers have carried out a test purchasing operation in 25 shops in East Lothian to ensure they comply with the law and do not sell alcohol to children.

The operation took place on Monday 19th March and Tuesday 20th March in Musselburgh, Prestonpans, Tranent and Haddington.

Operation Andromeda enlists the help of young volunteers between the ages of 16 and 17-years-old to go into retail premises and attempt to buy alcohol, with a view to reduce anti-social behaviour and safeguard the welfare of young people.

Of the 25 premises tested this week, all of them passed.

Constable Ryan Russell of East Lothian Community Action Team said: "Selling alcohol to young people or purchasing it for them is highly irresponsible and puts children in danger.

"I want to thank all the licensees we tested this time for following the correct procedures. I am pleased to say they all passed this time.

“However we will not be complacent and will take all necessary steps to keep our children safe in East Lothian.

“Over the last four months we have tested 60 premises and had four fails.”

Anyone with concerns about the sale of alcohol to underage persons is asked to contact officers on 101 or East Lothian Licensing Board on licensing@eastlothian.gov.uk