

Criminal behaviour will not be tolerated at Edinburgh derby



Police are warning those attending tonight's Edinburgh derby that criminal behaviour will not be accepted.

The game is a sell-out and a high-visibility police presence will be in place in and around the ground to assist stewarding staff with conducting searches and to keep fans safe inside the stadium.

Officers have also been liaising with staff at licensed premises around the city and will be visiting these venues throughout the day to deter criminality.

During the previous match between the clubs at Tynecastle Stadium on 31st October, a number of incidents arose, resulting in various arrests, either at the time, or in the days following the game.

Those intent on causing trouble are reminded that a number of resources can and will be utilised to identify anyone involved in criminal behaviour.

Superintendent Jim Royan, Match Commander for Saturday's game, said: "The atmosphere around Edinburgh whenever there is a derby match is always extremely special and the vast majority of fans of both Hearts and Hibs are a credit to themselves and their respective clubs.

"However, there is always a small minority whose behaviour and actions put themselves, other spectators, and even players and staff, at risk of harm. This cannot and will not be tolerated.

"We have been working closely with both clubs on the run-up to this match and providing any relevant assistance we can in terms of guidance to stewarding staff. Our policing resource on the day will be significant and this is to ensure we can maintain the safety of all of those in attendance.

"I would like to remind everyone coming along that there is specific legislation in place, which prevents access to a sporting venue if you have excessively consumed alcohol and we shall be enforcing this.

"You will also not gain entry should you be found in possession of items such as weapons or flares. I want to stress that you will be arrested and face a criminal record should you attempt to bring anything like this into the ground.

"We want everyone who is coming to Easter Road to have a great time, as well as those watching the match at their homes or licensed premises. Please drink and behave responsibly and enjoy the festivities in the proper spirit."