

Hopes of top-flight football returning in August 'pointing in the right direction'

Hibs opening game of the season against Kilmarnock on Saturday 1st August is likely to go ahead according to Scotland's national clinical director Professor Jason Leitch.

Only top-flight games are scheduled to start in August with the lower divisions expected to resume in mid-October.

The dates are dependent on the number of new cases of COVID-19 however at the moment things are 'pointing in the right direction.'



Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v Livingston.
Easter Road Stadium, Edinburgh, Midlothian, UK.
30/10/2019.

Pic shows: Hibs' winger, Martin Boyle, fires home the equaliser as Hibs play host to Livingston at Easter Road Stadium, Edinburgh.

Credit: Ian Jacobs

Speaking to BBC Scotland's Off The Ball programme, he said "everything is pointing in a good direction" for the top flight to begin as scheduled on 1 August although spectators remain unlikely to be back in stadiums by October.

"We're very hopeful that in the autumn sometime we will be able to run some test events and then get crowds back. We want to do that and if the numbers [of infections] stay the way they are, that's the best way of getting to there.

“If the pubs opening doesn’t give us big numbers, then crowds are much more likely than less likely.”

Meanwhile Hibs bounce game against Ross County which was scheduled for yesterday was cancelled after their coronavirus test results failed to turn up on time.

Hibs have been conducting the tests on Thursdays but when the results failed to turn up on Saturday morning, the club immediately contacted Ross County.

Hibs will now test earlier in the week to prevent a repeat in future.