

# Football fans allowed back at two 'pilot' games this weekend

The SFA Joint Response Group has received approval from Scottish Ministers for two pilot matches to take place with a maximum of 300 home supporters in the Scottish Premiership on Saturday 12 September.

The Aberdeen v Kilmarnock and Ross County v Celtic matches will be subject to the initial pilot phase after both of the home teams submitted detailed operational plans for the safe access and egress of supporters:



Both of the home clubs will also provide a post-match report on operational delivery to inform guidance for future pilots and the general resumption of supporters outlined in the Scottish Government Route Map out of the COVID-19 crisis.

Neil Doncaster, SPFL Chief Executive: "We are pleased to have received confirmation of pilot events at two Scottish Premiership fixtures on 12 September and I would like to thank the respective home clubs – and indeed all 12 Premiership clubs – for the comprehensive Return to Supporting plans.

"We look forward to building on the successful all-sport supporter pilot at BT Murrayfield and I know that clubs take the responsibility for the safe return of supporters seriously. This is another significant step forward for Scottish football and I reiterate the importance of fans to

our national game.

“The JRG will continue to liaise with all clubs, and especially the home clubs, in the coming week to ensure all protocols and guidance are adhered to and that fans can look forward to a phased return to supporting their respective teams.”

Sports Minister Joe FitzPatrick said: “No final decision has yet been taken regarding the general resumption of stadia events with restricted numbers of spectators and nothing should be taken for granted at this stage. However, the Scottish Government has agreed that the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL) can hold two pilot events, each with 300 home supporters only, on 12 September.

“A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes in recent months to create the protocols and testing regimes to allow top-level professional sport in Scotland to resume, and this arrangement follows extensive discussions with the Scottish FA, SPFL and clubs about public safety – particularly in relation to physical distancing and hygiene measures.

“The football authorities and the clubs involved have also been able to review and learn from the pilot event staged by Scottish Rugby on 28 August and we are confident there will be strict protocols in place at these two initial pilot football events.

“We are keeping all pilot events under close review.”