

Police Scotland submission in relation to the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill

- (1) Section 24(2)(b)(i) says that no warrant is needed if “the constable reasonably believes that there is a real and substantial risk that delay in seeking a warrant would defeat or prejudice the purpose of taking action”.

Response: Police Scotland officers would seek authority from senior event command to force entry to any premises without warrant, any decision of authority would be recorded and based on police powers of entry without warrant at Common Law:

At Common Law

A constable is empowered at common law to enter any house or building without a warrant

(a) on hearing the noise of a serious disturbance in the premises in order to enquire into the cause or to suppress the disorder;

(b) when in close pursuit of a person who has committed or attempted to commit a serious crime, e.g., murder, rape, robbery, theft by housebreaking, etc.; and

(c) in order to fulfil their duty to protect life and property.

The constable may enter by force if refused admission after revealing his identity and the purpose of his errand. However, forcible entry should not be made to arrest a person for a minor crime or offence: the house may be watched to prevent the offender's escape until a warrant is obtained, if such a course is thought necessary, or the case may be reported for proceedings by citation.

- (2) Instances of online ticket touting reported to Police Scotland.

Response: Instances of ticket touting online related to the UEFA EURO 2028 tournament reported to Police Scotland would be reviewed and subsequent enquiry directed by the tournament crime lead (assigned by Police Scotland) in conjunction with the police licensing unit. The designation of investigation and possible enforcement would be allocated based on a number of criteria. For example, the value, scale and location of the suspected offence, and in liaison with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

- (3) Ticket touting (not online) reported to Police Scotland.

Response: Instances of ticket touting related to the UEFA EURO 2028 tournament reported to or directly witnessed by officers of Police Scotland

would be reviewed and where required, the subsequent enquiry would be directed by the tournament crime lead (assigned by Police Scotland) in conjunction with the police licensing unit. The designation of investigation and possible enforcement would be allocated based on a number of criteria. For example, the value, scale and location of the suspected offence, and in liaison with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

(4) Powers to seize and destroy electronic devices

Response: Police Scotland officers detecting offences relating to the Euro 2028 legislation whereby they are required to seize the item(s) for evidential purposes, will not destroy said item(s) unless directed by the COPFS or unless the electronic / digital item cannot be safely stored.