

Music festivals

Music festivals are now in full swing across Scotland with the biggest event, 'T' in The Park, due to start on Thursday 7th July 2016.

Throughout the summer Police Scotland continues to focus on creating a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone attending music festivals. The safety of patrons is a paramount consideration for Police Scotland who will continue to police events in a 'business as usual' way with a 'zero tolerance' policy in relation to controlled drugs.

The Psychoactive Substances (PS) Act 2016 went live on 26th May 2016. Whilst there is no simple possession offence for psychoactive substances they will not be permitted into music festivals. Only laboratory analysis can determine the content of any illicit substance and they should be avoided as manufacture is unregulated.

It must be anticipated by music festival patrons that a condition of entry will involve consenting to being searched by the event Security staff or Police officers.

Police Scotland is aware of reports that patrons sometimes 'pre-load' drugs by taking them prior to entry to avoid detection. This practice is dangerous and can result in very serious health consequences. It makes no sense to miss the enjoyment and increase the dangers through drug consumption.

There are currently a number of ecstasy tablets in circulation that may contain larger than normal doses of MDMA. It is widely recognised that well-made tablets with sophisticated designs could contain a much larger than average and potentially dangerous dose of the drug. These dangers are significantly increased when the tablets are consumed in numbers or with alcohol.

An example of one recent ecstasy logo design is the 'Transformer'.

Transformer logo ecstasy tablet



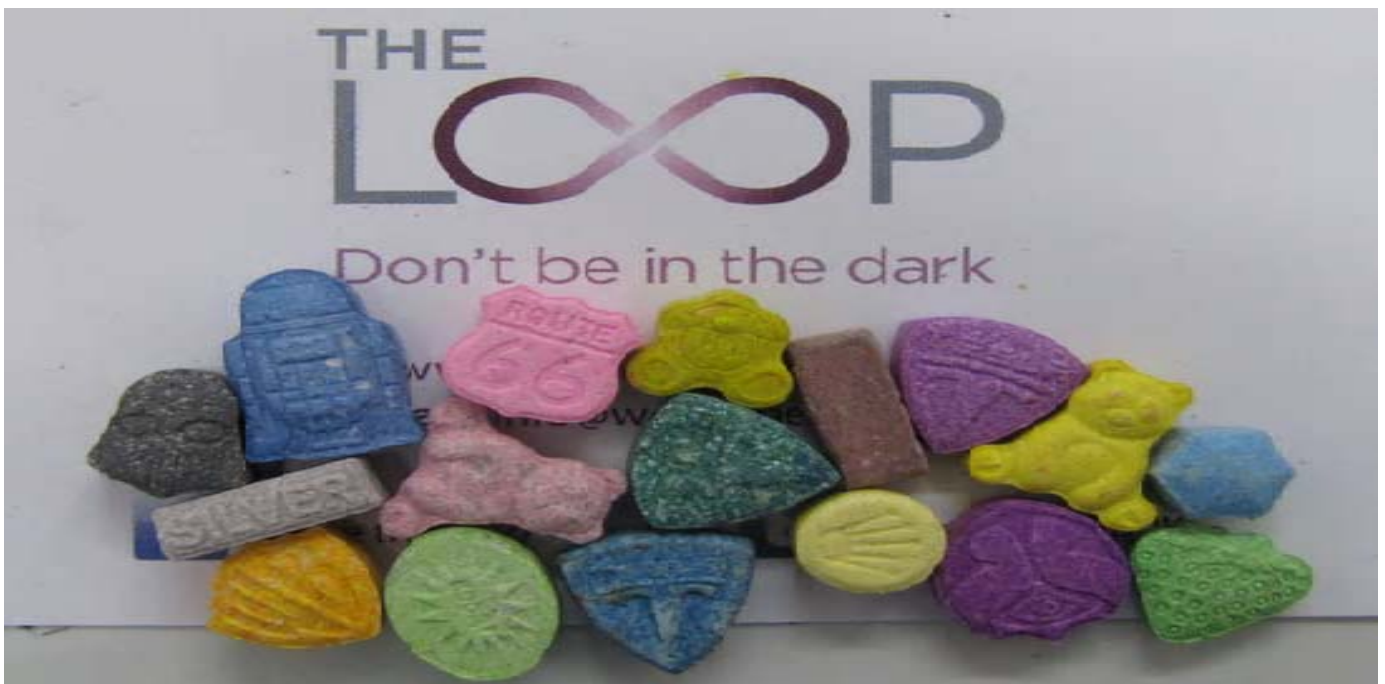
Drug Trend Bulletin

Media reporting on the recent Parklife music festival in the Manchester area, highlighted warnings about red MasterCard ecstasy pills after samples were tested and found to contain approximately 250mg of MDMA.

MasterCard logo ecstasy tablets



At the same event a batch of yellow colour Mickey Mouse design ecstasy tablets were found to contain more than 200mg of MDMA. Other types of ecstasy tablet were found to contain more than 150mg of MDMA and include orange Warner Bro, blue Instagram and grey Darth Vader, logos / designs.



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Professor Fiona Measham of 'The Loop' organisation based in Durham, was 'on site' at the Parklife event and has conducted extensive work on festival drugs throughout the UK. Professor Measham was contacted by Police Scotland and she expressed concern about the current ecstasy situation stating, "*The main issue is the wide variance of drug content within ecstasy tablets*". This highlights the dangers of drug use and the potential for what should be an enjoyable event turning into a disaster.

The Glastonbury music festival was held over the weekend of 23rd – 26th June 2016 and there were a number of seizures of similar type ecstasy tablets with a wider range of different logos. Police drug specialists on site there also identified that ketamine use appeared to be on the increase and the use of nitrous oxide.

Police Scotland drugs specialists will be working at T in the Park for the duration of the event and there will also be a scientific laboratory on site to accurately identify drugs as they are recovered.

The majority of music festivals have websites providing useful information. Other websites include the Scottish Drug Forum and the Edinburgh based charity, Crew.

- Scottish Drug Forum www.sdf.org.uk
- Crew www.mycrew.or.uk

If you have any information you wish to pass on to police regarding drugs please use the Police Scotland non-emergency number 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

The message from Police Scotland is to be sensible, safe and enjoy!

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