OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

Bonfire week: trouble outside your display

What Halloween night in Scotland means for the walk in, the walk home, control zones and the operator exemption

Correct as of 2 November 2026

SUMMARY

The risk sits outside the gate.

144 fireworks calls on Halloween night [1]



A crowd watches a fireworks display at night. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

The facts, as reported

144

fireworks calls on Halloween night [1]

62

officers injured in 2023 [4]

14

control zones in Edinburgh [5]

Halloween night 2026

THE FIGURES

144 calls, down from 160 [1]

Seven Dispersal Orders [1]

No officers injured [1]

WHAT POLICE SAW

Fireworks lit in the street [1]

Some thrown at the public [1]

Used as projectiles [1]

Watch the approach

Stewards on the streets, not only the gate

A steward with a torch and a radio at a wet street junction at night. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

02

Operation Moonbeam in figures

OFFICER INJURIES	LAST YEAR
62 in 2023 [4]	Calls down almost 37 per cent [4]
One in 2024 [4]	Over two tonnes seized [4]
None in 2025 [4]	24 people charged [4]

03

Control zones this year

EDINBURGH	GLASGOW
14 areas [5]	Four zones [8]
30 October to 8 November [6]	30 October to 9 November [8]
Agreed 8 June 2026 [6]	Up to six months in prison [8]



The firing area

Cordoned and evidenced

Covered firing racks behind steel fencing and tape at night. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

04

The operator exemption

WHAT THE ACT SAYS	WHAT TO HOLD
Professional operators only [11]	Proof of professional status
For a public display [11]	A copy of their insurance
In force since 22 June 2023 [11]	The firing area plan

05

Possession and dispersal

PYROTECHNICS

- Possession in public is an offence [11]
- Some events are designated [11]
- Ban them in your entry terms

DISPERSAL ZONES

- Pollokshields, 31 Oct to 6 Nov [9]
- Police can direct people away [10]
- Up to 24 hours, s21 [10]

06

Where the risk sits on display night

1 Walk in

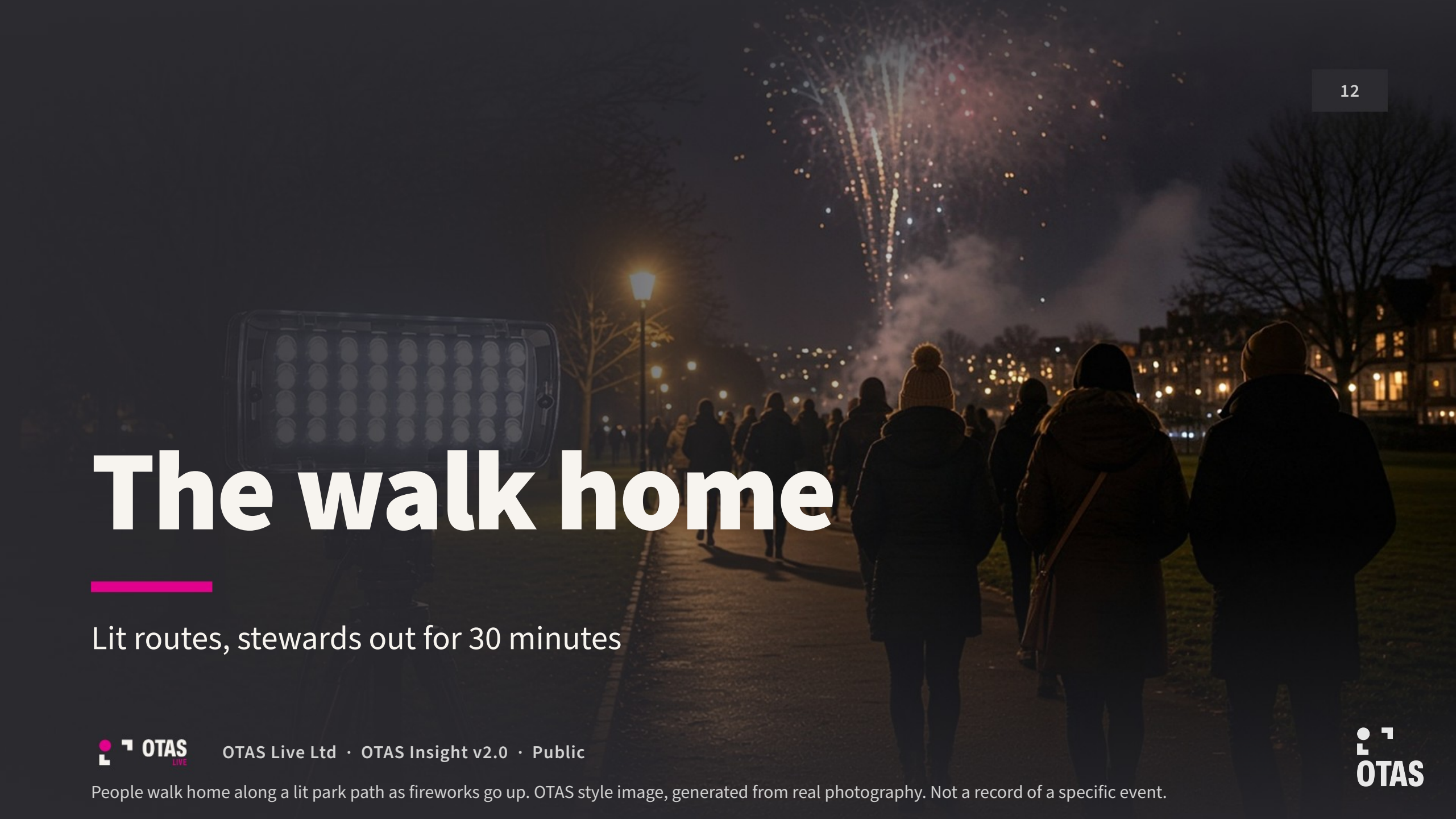
2 Queue at the gate

3 The show

4 Finale and exit

5 Walk home

OTAS guidance.



The walk home

Lit routes, stewards out for 30 minutes

People walk home along a lit park path as fireworks go up. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

07

Six actions before your display

THIS WEEK

- Check the zone maps
- Get operator evidence
- Call your police contact

ON THE NIGHT

- Agree the stop trigger
- Stewards on approaches
- Stagger the exit

08

Warning signs near the site

Signs 1 and 2 come from the police report.
Signs 3 to 5 are OTAS guidance.

01 **Fireworks lit in the street**

02 **Anything thrown towards people**

03 **Groups gathering near the site**

04 **Posts about meeting nearby**

05 **Bangs or smoke off site**

09

Five stages, from this week to the walk home



STAGE 1

This week

Police, maps, operator

STAGE 2

Site plan

Zones, routes, lighting

STAGE 3

Doors

Approach, search

STAGE 4

The show

Hold and stop calls

STAGE 5

Exit

Stagger, stay 30 minutes

From the plan in this Insight. OTAS guidance.

10

If something is thrown

THE FOUR STEPS

- Stop the show
- Move people back
- Report where and what
- Preserve CCTV

AGREE WITH POLICE

- What triggers a hold
- Who calls it
- Who restarts the show

11

Roles on the night

WHO OWNS WHAT

- Safety officer: hold and stop
- Police liaison: one contact
- Route supervisors: one each
- Operator lead: the cordon

MEDICAL AND WELFARE

- Burns and eye injury cover
- Reach the approach routes
- Welfare point near the exit

What to do at each level

Operational

Report with location

Move people back

Leave groups to police

Tactical

Stewards on approaches

One radio channel

Stagger the exit

Strategic

Check zone maps

Hold operator evidence

Agree the stop trigger

13

The checklist

BEFORE THE NIGHT

- Police call and zone maps
- Operator evidence on file
- No fireworks in entry terms
- Lit exit routes

ON THE NIGHT

- Stewards on approaches
- One radio channel
- Watch social media
- Log times and references

We have again experienced incidents of fireworks used as projectiles at buildings, vehicles and members of the public.

The officer in charge of the operation, Police Scotland, after Halloween night [1]

Where the facts come from

1	**Police Scotland, police praise public spirit during Halloween 2026, 31 October 2026**	scotland.police.uk
2	**BBC News, Halloween fireworks calls in Scotland, 1 November 2026**	bbc.co.uk
3	**STV News, fireworks thrown at people, buildings and vehicles, 1 November 2026**	news.stv.tv
4	**Police Scotland, launch of Operation Moonbeam 2026, 21 October 2026**	scotland.police.uk
5	**City of Edinburgh Council, Firework Control Zones**	edinburgh.gov.uk
6	**City of Edinburgh Council, news, Firework Control Zones for 2026**	edinburgh.gov.uk
7	**Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, organised firework events**	firescotland.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

8	**Glasgow City Council, Firework Control Zones confirmed for four Glasgow communities**	glasgow.gov.uk
9	**Police Scotland, dispersal zone in Pollokshields over Halloween and Bonfire Night, October 2026**	scotland.police.uk
10	**Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, legislation.gov.uk**	legislation.gov.uk
11	**Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022, legislation.gov.uk**	legislation.gov.uk
12	**HSE, crowd management, assess the risks**	hse.gov.uk
13	**HSE, crowd management, controls**	hse.gov.uk
14	**HSE, crowd management, monitoring**	hse.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

15	**The Purple Guide, chapter list**	thepurpleguide.co.uk
16	**Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, section 41, legislation.gov.uk**	legislation.gov.uk

Web sources opened 2 November 2026 and labelled with their publisher.

OVER TO YOU

If a firework was thrown at your queue on the night, who would call the hold?

If you need support with crowd, route and stewarding plans for a fireworks display, reach out to us to see how we can support you.

OTAS Live Ltd.

OTAS LIVE