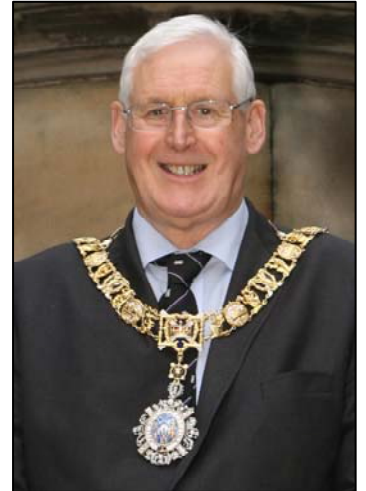


WELCOME TO EDINBURGH



As Lord Provost of Edinburgh, I am delighted to welcome you to Scotland's capital city and I hope you find this information pack to be helpful.

Edinburgh is a beautiful, dynamic, cosmopolitan city with a unique architectural heritage and a magnificent natural setting. It is host to many thousands of visitors who come here throughout the year to enjoy numerous cultural and sporting events such as the world famous Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh's Hogmanay and the Six Nations rugby matches. With around one million overseas visitors a year, Edinburgh is the UK's most visited tourist destination outside London.



The city is the UK's most popular business tourism destination with people travelling from all over the world to attend conferences on a wide variety of subjects. It is the country's second financial centre and is currently rated along with London as the UK's most prosperous city. Indeed Edinburgh was forecast to be the fastest growing UK city over the period from 1999 to 2005. Average personal disposable income is higher than any other major regional city and Edinburgh citizens enjoy one of the highest qualities of life in the country.

The official unemployment rate for Edinburgh is lower than the average in Scotland and the UK. The city has one of the most highly qualified and skilled workforces in the country and a higher proportion of the local adult population have post-school qualifications than any other major UK city.

Edinburgh has a long reputation for academic excellence and we were the first Scottish city to establish a civic university when we established the Townis College in 1583. Our academic and medical institutions are currently at the forefront of research in a variety of fields and attract students and staff from every corner of the world.

With a wealth of culture and leisure facilities, Edinburgh really is a wonderful city to live in, to work in or to visit. I hope you will be inspired by what you read in this welcome pack and that you will be encouraged to find out more about our city.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Grubb".

The Rt Hon George Grubb
Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh