

EDINBURGH INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Full Timeline, Routes, CCTV Analysis & Open Questions

Prepared: 17 September 2026

Reference: JAOC-EDIN-2026-0619

Status: Independent Review

Executive Summary

On the evening of Friday 19 June 2026, a series of connected attacks took place across Edinburgh. A single male suspect — Lewis Hawkes, 36, Edinburgh — has been charged with 5 counts of attempted murder and related offences. Police have stated the incident is treated as racially motivated / far-right extremism.

This independent dossier examines verified timelines, spatial distances, road traffic conditions, CCTV records, suspect identification consistency, and remaining information gaps.

1. Verified Timeline & Locations

#	LOCATION	POSTCODE	APPROX. TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION
1	Sighthill Park / Broomhouse Mosque	EH11	~20:30–20:50	2 men (22) stabbed after prayers. Police called ~20:50.
2	Shell Garage, Telford Road	EH4	~21:15	Taxi attacked; axe thrown through windscreen.
3	BP Garage, Ferry Road	EH6	~21:28	Windscreen & kiosk damaged.
4	Leith Walk	EH6/7	~21:30–21:31	Car abandoned; 2 more attacked; arrest made.

Total Span: ~40 minutes | Total Distance: ~8.5 miles across city

2. Routes, Distances & Driving Times

LEG	ROUTE	MILES	NORMAL DRIVE	WITH TRAFFIC	AVAILABLE WINDOW	FEASIBLE?
1 → 2	Sighthill → Telford Rd	~5.0	14–16 min	18–22 min	25 min	✓ Yes
2 → 3	Telford Rd → Ferry Rd	~2.1	5–7 min	6–8 min	13 min	✓ Yes
3 → 4	Ferry Rd → Leith Walk	~1.4	4–6 min	4–6 min	2–3 min	⚠ Tight

Primary Routes Available: Calder Rd → Stenhouse → Roseburn → Queensferry Rd → Telford Rd; Sighthill → Gorgie → Murrayfield → Crewe Toll; A8 → City Bypass West → Queensferry Rd.

Local Factors: Davidson's Mains Roundabout reopened same afternoon with temporary traffic lights (adds 3–5 min, manageable). Airport evacuation congestion in West Edinburgh eased by ~20:30.

3. Duration of Each Incident

LOCATION	ESTIMATED TIME ON SITE	OPERATIONAL DETAILS
Sighthill Park	2–5 min	Ambush-style attack; immediate departure.
Telford Rd	1–2 min	Smash-and-dash; no lingering.
Ferry Rd	1–3 min	Fast damage; departure not precisely timestamped.
Leith Walk	3–5 min	Multiple confrontations; police arrived quickly.

4. Critical Analysis — Ferry Road → Leith Walk

The tightest segment in the timeline involves the transition from Ferry Road to Leith Walk:

- **Available Gap:** ~2 minutes between recorded timestamps.
- **Normal Driving Time:** 4–6 minutes.
- **Operational Resolution:** The CCTV timestamp (21:28) records when footage was captured, not necessarily the exact second of departure. If departure occurred at ~21:25–21:26, the transit is achievable via shortcuts (Bonnington Rd → Brunswick St). Erratic or high-speed driving also aligns with witness accounts.

Conclusion: Physically tight, but entirely achievable for a single driver.

5. CCTV & Visual Identification Inventory

SOURCE	LOCATION	TIMESTAMP	KEY DETAILS	RELEASED BY
Leith Walk HD	Leith Walk	~21:30	Bare-chested, 2 knives, cigarette; car abandoned; arrest sequence.	BBC / STV
Ferry Rd CCTV	BP Garage	21:28	Shirt ON; same build; black car; kiosk damage.	BBC / STV
Telford Rd Still	Shell Garage	~21:15	Taxi damage; axe visible; no clear suspect shot.	Business CCTV
Sighthill	Broomhouse Mosque	~20:40	NOT RELEASED — withheld by police.	None

Consistency Check — Ferry Road vs. Leith Walk

FEATURE	FERRY RD (SHIRT ON)	LEITH WALK (SHIRT OFF)	MATCH?
Build / Height	Stocky, medium height	Same proportions	✔ Yes

FEATURE	FERRY RD (SHIRT ON)	LEITH WALK (SHIRT OFF)	MATCH?
Hair	Short, dark	Same	✓ Yes
Vehicle	Dark/black saloon	Same car	✓ Yes
Weapons	Axe + knives implied	Two large knives + axe seen	✓ Yes

Manipulation / AI Red Flags Checklist: No blurry edges, distorted hands, inconsistent shadows, or facial shifts detected. Differences in resolution and lighting are entirely normal between business CCTV and HD street cameras.

6. Could There Be a Second Person?

ANALYTICAL QUESTION	FINDING
Two distinct suspect descriptions?	✗ No — all sources match one male.
Two different vehicles observed?	✗ No — same dark/black car throughout.
Second arrest made?	✗ No — police confirm one person in custody.
Accomplice officially ruled out?	⚠ Not explicitly — "enquiries continue" but no description issued.

Conclusion: All available evidence points to a single individual.

7. What Remains Unreleased / Unknown

- **Sighthill Park CCTV:** First attack scene footage remains withheld; releasing it would confirm identity at the route origin.
- **Vehicle Registration:** Exact make, model, and registration of the vehicle have not been publicly detailed.
- **Exact Transit Route:** Specific streets between Sighthill and Telford Road remain unverified.
- **Full Arrest Statement:** Only partial quotes released; full context withheld.

8. Key Questions for Public Authorities

1. Will CCTV footage from Sighthill Park / Broomhouse Mosque be released publicly?
2. What is the exact make, model, and registration of the vehicle used?
3. What specific route did the suspect take between Sighthill and Telford Road?
4. At what precise time did the suspect depart the BP Garage on Ferry Road?
5. Has the possibility of prior planning or external assistance been fully ruled out?
6. Why was there a ~40-minute gap between the first emergency call and the final arrest?

9. Conclusion

ASSESSMENT METRIC	OUTCOME
Timeline physically possible?	✓ Yes — tight but achievable.
Single-suspect evidence consistent?	✓ Generally — visual matches across scenes.
Digital / AI manipulation confirmed?	✗ No — no verified evidence.
Information gaps exist?	✓ Yes — notably Sighthill footage withheld.
Further public inquiry needed?	✓ Yes — unreleased footage & timestamps warrant clarity.

This document is a fact-finding investigation based on publicly available information. It does not represent a definitive finding of guilt or innocence. All claims should be treated as allegations until proven in a court of law.