



Jo Shiner
Chief Constable

Peter Tatchell
Director
Peter Tatchell Foundation
Disney Place
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Dear Peter,

Thank you for the e-mail from the Peter Tatchell Foundation about the history of policing of LGBT+ communities received on 2 May 2023 and for our subsequent meetings this month.

In response, I write on behalf of Sussex Police to offer an apology and to express my sincere regret for historical prejudice and ill-treatment directed towards LGBTQ+ people in Sussex.

As Chief Constable, I believe it is crucial to address past injustices and acknowledge the harm caused to individuals and minority groups by discriminatory systems, processes and unacceptable behaviours in policing.

Over the years, the LGBTQ+ community has faced significant challenges and discrimination and especially so those in older generations. It is clear that the approach taken in Sussex to enforcing the laws of the day demonstrated bias that impacted uniquely and immeasurably members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Recognising that we are a very different police force today, I accept these actions diminished trust in the police and led to feelings of injustice that persist among some. It is important we take responsibility for our actions so that we can move forward, positively, together.

While I cannot undo the past, I can assure you of my genuine commitment, through continuing dialogue, community engagement and collaboration, to effecting necessary change and to ensuring we prevent any such discrimination in the future.

In 2023, Sussex Police has one of the highest proportion of LGBTQ+ officers and staff of any police force in UK, specialist liaison officers who listen and regularly engage with those in the community as well as an active LGBTQ+ external reference group which, in part, reflects that change. There is no place in Sussex Police for those who do not uphold these values.

We have a precious but fragile bond with our communities and it is my hope that this apology will mark a significant step towards a more inclusive and compassionate future, where the rights and dignity of every individual are recognised, respected and protected.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Shiner
Chief Constable