



Our Ref: CC/LH/0063

6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Peter,

I write in response to your letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> August, in which you wrote to Lincolnshire Police to request recognition for the unacceptable way in which historical homophobic laws were enforced.

You are right when you say that as a police service we have made great progress towards supporting the LGBT+ community, and I am pleased that this is recognised as it means we are on the right path. However, this does not erase the past and I accept some of the ways in which policies, processes and practices were enforced historically, would be deemed inappropriate today.

We have recently had our annual PRIDE celebration in Lincoln, in which our officers and staff were encouraged to attend, both on and off duty. I will always support PRIDE in Lincolnshire and have been clear about this in past and recent communications. This year, I have also taken the opportunity to apologise for the actions and impact of past policing activity which I copy here for your reference:

*"Lincoln Pride is a fantastic community event, and I'm really pleased to have seen so many of our officers and staff engaging in the way they did. This can only help to build the trust and confidence our LGBTQ+ communities have in us and show that Lincolnshire Police are here to support them and keep them safe. I do expect my officers and staff to engage with people in such a positive celebration and to show our human side, behind the uniform, to help build strong relationships for the future. This will help to restore trust and confidence that has been affected by past injustices and inequity due to historical laws, policies and processes not always being used correctly. As Chief Constable I am sorry our LGBTQ+ communities have been disproportionately affected in this way and there is no doubt this has damaged their trust in the police. I want to make sure we move forward in a positive way and deliver a service that is reflective and inclusive of all the communities we serve, treating everyone fairly, with respect, to ensure they are protected from discrimination."*

My role as Chief Constable puts me in a privileged position to help shape the future of policing, and I hope this goes some way to further improve LGBT+ trust and confidence in the police.

Yours sincerely

Chris Haward  
Chief Constable

---

Chris Haward  
Chief Constable  
Lincolnshire Police  
Chief Constable's Office  
Police Headquarters  
PO Box 999  
Lincoln LN5 7PH  
(Sat Nav: LN2 2LT)  
[www.lincs.police.uk](http://www.lincs.police.uk)

✉ [chief.constable@lincs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:chief.constable@lincs.pnn.police.uk)

