

Our ref:

Your ref:

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024



Letter sent by email to: [Peter@PeterTatchellFoundation.org](mailto:Peter@PeterTatchellFoundation.org)

## North Yorkshire Police Apology

Dear Mr Tatchell

Thank you for your letter dated 14 August 2023 where you highlighted the historical prejudice the LGBTQ+ community have faced from UK police, and the need for an apology in order to put the past behind us and move forward positively together.

As Acting Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police, I offer my sincere apologies to the LGBTQ+ community for any historical discriminatory behaviour they were subjected to by any member of this force.

To rebuild trust, it's important to recognise the harm caused not only to the individuals subject to unacceptable police behaviours of the past, but also the upset and distress experienced by their families and loved ones, and the LGBTQ+ community as a whole. I recognise that it's important to acknowledge former injustices, to forge stronger relationships for the future. I hope that this acknowledgment demonstrates our commitment as a force to work with our LGBTQ+ to do exactly that.

I was pleased to see the recognition you gave in your letter to UK policing's current supportive policies towards the LGBTQ+ community.

Our county's Pride events are an eagerly anticipated and valuable opportunity for us to engage positively with our LGBTQ+ communities. Our participation demonstrates our support for the LGBTQ+ community within North Yorkshire and reflects our understanding of the challenges many still face from discrimination and hate crime. I hope that our attendance also actively displays our commitment to keeping the LGBTQ+ community safe and feeling safe.

Pride also provides a positive platform for LGBTQ+ members of our own workforce to be visible and proud, both of who they are and the vital service they provide to the community every day. This was a message our Chief Constable, Lisa Winward, was keen to promote in [a vlog she recorded at York Pride](#), which was made available across our force social media accounts and website.

As a bisexual man myself, I understand some of the challenges that our LGBTQ+ communities, both externally and internally, continue to face.

I hope my response, and the actions of all the officers and staff that I lead, shows that policing is listening, learning, and changing, and that everyone here at North Yorkshire Police is fully committed to true inclusivity and equality for all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Elliot Foskett**  
**A/Chief Constable**  
**North Yorkshire Police**