



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
RESTRICTED/CONFIDENTIAL

Police Headquarters, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich IP5 3QS

Tel: 01473 613500 Fax: 01473 613737 (24 hrs)

Calls may be monitored for quality control, security and training purposes.

Peter Tatchell
Director
Peter Tatchell Foundation
Disney Place
London SE1 1HL.

Dear Peter,

As Chief Constable of Suffolk, I wanted to write to you personally to offer my honest and sincere apologies for the historic hurt caused by discriminatory policies, processes and practices that ultimately let down our LGBT+ communities.

I recognise that damaging attitudes and actions, both at leadership and operational levels, created a divide in confidence and trust in local policing that is still felt today. I also acknowledge the fear bred of police mistreatment that rests within some of our most vulnerable communities.

Over the years, the LGBT+ community has faced significant challenges and discrimination, especially those of older generations. The approach taken to enforcing the laws of the day demonstrated bias that impacted uniquely and immeasurably towards members of the LGBT+ community.

As an organisation, it is by becoming vulnerable in admitting our mistakes that we can learn from them in order to implement change. I want us to continue to build bridges with those that have felt unable to come to us, to be professional in understanding when we don't get it right. The officers of Suffolk Constabulary come from the communities we police, no less our LGBT+ communities, and by treating people with the respect and compassion they deserve we serve our public.

Our LGBT+ Police Network members are critical friends and I welcome their scrutiny of our handling of LGBT+ hate crimes, to generate inclusive change.

Although I cannot alter the past, I want to sincerely apologise for the damage caused to our communities, with the unwavering promise that we are committed to learning from our mistakes and ensuring that they are not repeated in the future.

Your sincerely

Rachel Kearton BSc MPhil FCIPD CF
Chief Constable

Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest

www.suffolk.police.uk