

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

In the matter of an application for a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003

STATEMENT OF: Sergeant 938 Nigel COLLINS

Age of Witness (if over 18 enter) : Over 18

Occupation of Witness: Local Policing Support Hate Crime Sergeant

Address: North Yorkshire Police HQ, Alverton Court, Northallerton, DL6 1BF

This statement (consisting of 3 pages) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

I am the above-named person, and I am a currently employed by North Yorkshire Police and hold the position of Hate Crime Sergeant for the force.

My role and that of my team includes being responsible for reviewing all the reports of hate crime received by North Yorkshire Police, ensuring that it is correctly recorded and investigated and that suitable support is offered and provided to the victims of hate crime.

I am also responsible for representing North Yorkshire Police at various meetings with partners and stakeholders, I am responsible for delivering the training around hate crime to all new employees of North Yorkshire Police as well as delivering hate crime awareness training externally also.

Finally, my team also are regularly engaging with all our communities across North Yorkshire as we look to attend community events and meetings to continue the good relationships that have been built already and to ensure we have both the trust and confidence of our communities so that they will report matters to the police when it occurs.

My aim as the Hate Crime Sergeant is that all those living, working and visiting North Yorkshire feel safe and free from both discrimination and hatred regardless of their race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or transgender status and that when offences do occur against them that they are able to report the matter to the police for it to be appropriately investigated.

In relation to reports of hate crime within North Yorkshire Police I can confirm that whilst reports of hate crime have increased across the UK and indeed North Yorkshire, this is mainly

only in part in relation to racial hate crime and the increases are not necessarily being reflected in the figures for either hate crimes against a persons sexual orientation or their transgender identity where the figures stay very similar to previous years.

For the period of January 2024 to September 2024, sexual orientation hate crime made up 19% of all the hate crimes recorded within the City of York however from the period of January 2025 to September 2025 it only made up 18% of the total crimes recorded in York. Likewise, from January to September 2024, there were 13 reports of transphobic hate crime making up 4% of the total hate crimes in York but from January to September 2025, we have only recorded 9 reports of transphobic hate crime making up just 2% of the total reports we received.

To provide further detail in relation to the current picture around sexual orientation hate crime; within the City of York, June 2025 saw 10 reports being received, July 2025 saw 5 reports, August 2025, 7 reports and so far in September 2025 there has been 4 reports received.

I am very much of the opinion that just one hate crime where a person is targeted because of any of their protected characteristics is one hate crime too many and would like nothing more than to see that there were no victims of hate crime at all within the City of York, however the figures that we have been provided do not indicate a growing problem or one that has spiralled or seen any sudden spikes in relation to it.

That said, we only hold details of those incidents where victims, witnesses or family and friends are confident and brave enough to report what has occurred. Since I came into the post in 2024, my team and I have done a lot of work with the LGBTQI community to increase understanding and reporting of hate crimes to us including attending the Pride events in both York and Scarborough as well as more recently meetings held by the LGBTQI community.

It was at this meeting on 19th August 2025, hosted by the York LGBT Forum which was focussed on the provision of safe spaces for young people within the LGBTQI community in the City of York when I first met Graham who identified himself as the owner of Little j's.

Graham introduced himself and explained that he had an ongoing licence application being discussed/submitted regarding Little j's but had met with some obstructions from both the City of York Council and the NYP Licensing Team however he said that he was hopeful the matter could be resolved soon.

I explained that whilst I could not offer any information or insight on this, my role was to provide a point of contact to the LGBTQI community in York and that we want those members of the LGBT community to feel both welcome and more importantly safe in our city. We did not discuss Little j's or any application for the rest of the evening, instead focusing on the topic at hand and at the end of the night, it proved to be a very worthwhile engagement event for us. We were told that we would be more than welcome to attend future events that the Forum would be hosting as we indicated our desire to become more embedded within the community going forward.

I have remained in regular contact with Jake Furby who is a trustee of the York LGBT Forum since that meeting and he has shared some future events that are planned which we are looking to attend and represent NYP at. I have also offered to meet with Jake and other members of the Forum to have an open discussion around the safety of LGBTQI community

members in York and look at ways where I can help them keep safe and just as importantly make them feel safe in the city as I have come to understand that the perception is perhaps that they don't. The

figures we have, don't support such a perception so I felt it was important that I understand any barriers that may be in place preventing the reporting of such incidents so I can look to address them.

On Monday 22nd September 2025, I was made aware by Sgt Booth of the North Yorkshire Police Licensing Team that a video had been posted on the Little j's Facebook page where Graham spoke at a public demonstration on the 18th September 2025 and said that members of the community and those linked with Little j's and their licence application had received and been subjected to hate related abuse and threats online.

Referring back to the core part of my role where my team review all the hate crimes reported to North Yorkshire Police, I can confirm that we are not showing as having received any such reports as mentioned by Graham in his speech and would urge those that have received such threats to report the matter to the police as soon as possible through our non-emergency telephone number or via our website so we can investigate the matter appropriately and provide safeguarding and support to those that may require it.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my desire to work towards ensuring that York remains the fantastic, diverse, inclusive and welcoming city that I believe it to be. Part of that is to ensure that the LGBTQI community feel safe and so I have no objections at all about their being safe space venues for the community however I do also understand that the licensing of such venues are often subject to a number of different factors to be taken into consideration other than just a desire and want for such a premise.

Going forward, I hope to continue to work closely with the LGBTQI community, strengthen our relationship further and support them as much as is possible within the remit of my role.

Signed: Sgt 938 Nigel Collins

Date: 22/09/25