

FAO CYC Executive Team  
City of York Council  
West Offices  
Station Rise  
York  
YO1 6GA

9th April 2026

### **York Christmas Market Operating Hours**

Dear Executive,

The Hospitality Association York (HAY) executive committee, and the Indie York steering committee have read the Executive papers and the recommendation to close the York Christmas Market in 2026 for one day per week, with the suggestion of Tuesday.

Various members of the two committees have also spoken with other bodies in the city, including York BID, Tourism Advisory Board (TAB), and Make It York, among others. The overall feeling is one of concern, and confusion.

The main concerns are:

- Detrimental impact on trade, both market traders and other businesses. Many Indie York members take a stall at the Christmas markets expecting 7 days of trade\*, they will not recoup this lost day elsewhere.
- \*Furthermore, they will expect a reduction in their fees for the limited trading days, which will result in lost revenue for Make It York.
- Negative feedback from hotel visitors who expected there to be a market and are disappointed that there is not, having spent money on travel and accommodation with the main purpose to visit the markets.
- In addition to the above point; the inevitable challenge in communicating the Tuesday closure.

HAY and Indie York would like to understand the reason (and expected benefit) from this proposal:

In a recent York BID meeting, COYC stated that “we should not be holding events that not everyone can attend” referring to Blue Badge holders, however this proposed Tuesday closure will not grant this community access to the event.

There seems to be the suggestion that a Tuesday closure would mean both that (a) footfall will reduce on this day, and (b) that some of the traffic restrictions would be lifted on this day. HAY and Indie York feel that a reduction in footfall is unlikely, which leads us to question whether the Police agree to lifting traffic restrictions on the “closed” Tuesdays after all?

Yours faithfully,



**Rebecca Layton**

On behalf of the Hospitality Association York, and Indie York