



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

18th October 2013

Dear Supporter

This message is being shared with you following the concerns raised by you and others to West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Burns-Williamson and myself as the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police. These concerns centred on the West Yorkshire Police handling of the arrangements for the Huddersfield Town v Hull City game on 30 March 2013.

Following my appointment as the new Chief Constable for West Yorkshire Police in April of this year the Police and Crime Commissioner raised his ongoing concerns regarding this matter.

On reviewing the circumstances of what had occurred it was clear to me that, despite West Yorkshire Police's honest efforts to do the right thing to keep people safe, the outcome did not have the desired effect on all concerned. As Chief Constable I therefore wish to apologise on behalf of West Yorkshire Police to all supporters and those who rightfully raised concerns on their behalf, for any upset or inconvenience caused.

As a result I requested Northumbria Police, who are highly experienced in the meeting the necessary policing requirements to safely police major football events, to conduct an operational peer review of the events leading up to the game, West Yorkshire Police's operational decision making during this period and its communication of its decisions to the fans and the public, as well as its reasons for doing so. This was to ensure we identified the lessons that could be learned by West Yorkshire Police and ensure there is no repetition in the future.

The review has made a number of recommendations for the future which have been accepted by West Yorkshire Police and are currently being implemented. These touch upon the way West Yorkshire Police approach fixtures where they have evidenced safety concerns including early referral to the Local Authority led Safety Advisory Group, decision making arrangements, communication with supporters or the general public and how we record meetings and decisions with clubs.

At the heart of this is the Chief Constable's legal duty and that of my officers to ensure public safety and to prevent crime. Keeping people safe and feeling safer is the mission of West Yorkshire Police, along with maintaining public trust and confidence. I trust my apology today and the implementation of the learning West Yorkshire Police has gained will go some way to restore your confidence in us.

Yours faithfully

Mark Gilmore, QPM
Chief Constable
West Yorkshire Police