



**NORTH YORKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

Charter for Families Bereaved Through Public Tragedy

In adopting this Charter we commit to ensuring that North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service learns the lessons of the Hillsborough disaster and its aftermath, so that the perspective of the bereaved families is not lost.

Through the Charter North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service will:

1. In the event of a public tragedy, support the activation of emergency plans and deployment of resources to rescue victims, to support the bereaved and to protect the vulnerable.
2. Place the public interest above our own reputation.
3. Approach forms of public scrutiny – including public inquiries and inquests – with candour, in an open, honest and transparent way, making full disclosure of relevant documents, material and facts. Our objective is to assist the search for the truth. We accept that we should learn from the findings of external scrutiny and from past mistakes.
4. Avoid seeking to defend the indefensible or to dismiss or disparage those who may have suffered where we have fallen short.
5. Ensure all members of staff treat members of the public and each other with mutual respect and with courtesy. Where we fall short, we should apologise straightforwardly and genuinely.
6. Recognise that we are accountable and open to challenge. We will ensure that processes are in place to allow the public to hold us to account for the work we do and for the way in which we do it. We do not knowingly mislead the public or the media.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Dyson'.

Jonathan Dyson
Chief Fire Officer
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zoë Metcalfe'.

Zoë Metcalfe
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
for North Yorkshire