



**Superintendent Chris Hardy
Blackpool & Fylde Operations Manager
West Division Police Headquarters, Gerry Richardson Way, Blackpool, FY4 4US**

Our Ref: CH/SC

Your Ref:

Date: 27 November 2023

With the planning and events for 2023 behind us and looking forward to 2024, please find below a snapshot of Lytham Festival 2023, to provide an overview of the event from a policing perspective.

Lytham Festival 2023 was held over 5 days, with planning for the event beginning in January, with an early planning meeting with organisers followed by the usual SAG and internal planning meetings held at regular intervals prior to the event. This culminated in a multi-agency tabletop exercise to test plans for the event.

Police Commanders and operations team were in regular contact with the organisers allowing all viewpoints to be shared throughout the planning of and the actual event itself.

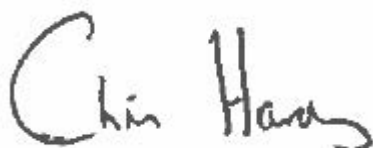
As per previous years the organiser was fully in support of the installation of HVM in the shape of the national barrier asset-financed by the event organiser. However, going into 2024 and listening to community feedback, it is advised that the installation and removal takes place early evening rather than daytime to reduce the impact on the local community.

Police Resources were deployed across the event and wider Lytham footprint. For obvious security reasons I will not divulge the exact numbers, but the response was proportionate and scalable dependent upon the act and anticipated numbers. As was the case previously this was supported by armed assets deployed on the operation. This was also supplemented by the local Neighbourhood Team using this event as a further opportunity to engage with the community. Lytham Festival organisers also contributed to the policing costs as per SPS guidance under Section 25 of the Police Act 1996.

Incident wise, the Police dealt with 31 incidents related to Lytham festival over the five days-this is not a significant number when considered in excess of 90,000 people attended the festival. Over the 5 days there were a total of 11 arrests for offences ranging from drunk and disorderly, drink driving, public order, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

From a policing perspective and with early planning and consultation I am satisfied that a safe well-run event can again be delivered for those attending Lytham Festival in 2024. The increase in the license number for 2023 caused no significant policing and or public safety concerns. But as ever we will through the de-brief obtain any learning that can be used to improve the event. If there was to be an application to increase the capacity of the event further, I would have no objections based on the previous running of the event with the assurance, as is the case already, that we and other key partner are involved in the early planning of the event.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Hardy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chris Hardy
Superintendent