On Thursday 25 November 2021 an 'election' was held to fill the Vacant post of Fire Police & Crime Commissioner (FPCC) for North



Yorkshire in a process that directly challenges the very essence of Democracy; a process rejected by 86.4% of the electorate; 533,608 people said NO!

# If we truly live in a Democracy then our VOICE MUST COUNT. This deeply flawed process undermines Democracy and the Police!

An election that has been so overwhelmingly rejected by the electorate has neither legitimacy nor credibility, the person so 'elected' has no authority, no mandate and is tainted by a deeply flawed and antidemocratic process that only serves to undermine Democracy and trust in authority which is why we believe we cannot and must not accept such a travesty and must challenge this 'farce' in the interests of Democracy.

Credibility is essential in building TRUST is a critical element of Policing by consent.

### We believe policing is a vital public service that must:-

- Respond to the needs of communities, be approachable and accessible,
- Be fully accountable to the communities served
- Forge a constructive partnership of equals between community and police at community level
- Be above party politics, meeting the needs of communities.

# It is really simple! Either we live in a Democracy, or we don't!



Democracy is fragile

# Genuinely Free and fair elections are the foundation of Any true Democracy!

### 3. Candidature, Party and Campaign Rights and Responsibilities

- (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of their country and shall have an equal opportunity to become a candidate for election.
- (5) Every voter has the right to equal and effective access to a polling station in order to exercise his or her right to vote.

#### **DECLARATION ON CRITERIA FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS**

Unanimously adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 154th session (Paris, 26 March 1994)

"Everyone has the right to take part in the government of (their) country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. . . . The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."

# The Position of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

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Every police force area in England and Wales is represented by a police and crime commissioner (PCC), except Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and London, where these powers lie with their respective mayors, and the City of London where they sit with the local police authority.

## Why were police and crime commissioners created?

The PCCs were created by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to replace police authorities in England and Wales (with the exception of Greater London and the City of London). This did not cover Scotland and Northern Ireland where policing is devolved.

This reform had been part of the Conservative Party's manifesto since 2005. [1] The government's stated aim was to strengthen local accountability and make police forces more responsive to local needs, criticising how the police authorities had been "invisible to the public". [2]

Police and crime commissioners | The Institute for Government

#### **Our View**

Policing is a vital public service, of great importance to all communities, impacting on the lives of everyone, directly or indirectly, the police cannot function effectively without the active support and trust of the community.

Policing by consent has always been the basis for policing in the UK and the way in which the police service is managed must embody this essential element and embrace a spirit of a constructive partnership with those being policed.

Communities must know they can hold the police, and those who manage the police in our name, to account, lack of accountability always leads to corruption!

# Just another scandal in the making?

For years there have been seemingly endless scandals involving Police failures from Hillsborough to Rotherham, Greater Manchester, the Metropolitan Police, the list goes on, but now



is the office of Police and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) another potential scandal and compounding the problems?

### Do the public have any trust in the position of PFCC?

The limited public support for police and crime commissioners has drained away further in their first year of office, according to a survey that shows only 10% of people polled agreed that the commissioners gave them more say in how their local area was policed.

The public opinion poll, by YouGov, comes on the anniversary of the PCCs' introduction and as Home Office proposals are announced that would allow members of the public to have their "everyday complaints" about the police dealt with by the commissioners.

A summer 2012 poll showed 27% expected PCCs would give them a greater say. In the new poll, only 9% of those polled thought PCCs had contributed to a fall in crime in their area.

This article is from 2013, we have tried to find more recent independent information without success but the low turnout in elections must be seen as a barometer of public opinion!

### Issues have included

conflict between PCCs and chief constables, questions over PCC expenses, the cost of elections and low voter turnout (in some cases, below 15%). The Plain English Campaign described the commissioners in 2015 as "serial offenders" in "mangling of the English language" and the use of "jargon". The former Home Secretary Theresa May, considered the policy to have had mixed success.

Police and crime commissioner - Wikipedia

### The position of PCC has never grabbed the public imagination or support.

From the start turnout in the elections has been incredibly low, democracy is all about engagement and accountability, in fact elections for PCC's could be seen as the ultimate, the gold standard in voter suppression, designed in such a way to ensure they are heavily biased and exclusive, the electorate allowed to endorse a candidate they don't know in a process that means nothing except to reinforce negative views.

In the 2021 elections Phillip Allott won in North Yorkshire on a turnout of 24.9%.

The highest turnout was 50.6% in Dyfed-Powys, the lowest 16.9% in Durham, most areas were around the 30% turnout, the electorate are voting with their feet but no one in authority is listening.

In 2021 there were 38 PCC elections which successfully elected a candidate: 34 in England, and four in Wales. 21% of these successful candidates were women and all represented a political party. The whole process is so heavily weighted in favour of the political parties, the electorate have become an irrelevance,

# North Yorkshire PFCC resigns after losing vote of no confidence

North Yorkshire's police and crime commissioner (PCC)

Philip Allott has resigned after losing a vote of no

confidence in his leadership following a backlash over comments he made about Sarah Everard.



### An election is called

Selby District Council – Timetable of Proceedings

#### Event and Deadline (midnight unless otherwise stated)

- Publication of Notice of Election Thursday 21 October 2021
- ☑ Deadline for Receipt of Nominations 04:00 pm Friday 29 October 2021
- Withdrawal of Candidate 04:00 pm Friday 29 October 2021
- Appointment of Election Agents 04:00 pm Friday 29 October 2021
- Publication of Notice of Election Agents 04:00 pm Friday 29 October 2021
- Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated 04:00 pm Monday 1 November 2021
- Last Date for Registration Tuesday 9 November 2021
- Receipt of Postal Vote Applications 05:00 pm Wednesday 10 November 2021
- Publication of Notice of Poll Wednesday 17 November 2021
- Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications 05:00 pm Wednesday 17 November 2021
- Appointment of Poll and Count Agents Thursday 18 November 2021
- First Day to Issue Replacement Lost Postal Ballot Papers -Friday 19 November 2021
- Last Day to Issue Replacement Spoilt or Lost Postal Ballot Papers 05:00 pm Thursday 25 November
   2021
- Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications 05:00 pm Thursday 25 November 2021
- Day of Poll 07:00 am to 10:00 pm Thursday 25 November 2021
- Return of Election Expenses Friday 4 February 2022

Last updated: 20 October 2021

# North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Election

The Election of a Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for the North Yorkshire Police Area will be held on Thursday 25 November 2021.



Candidate information can be viewed and downloaded on the North Yorkshire police force area page.

A printed copy of the candidate booklet can be ordered through the North Yorkshire police force area page or by calling 0808 196 2170, with large print, braille or audio versions provided on request. (The Candidate information ordering line is only open 8-30am to 5pm, you cannot leave a message except to ask for a call back)

If you would like further information regarding the 25 November election please visit <a href="https://www.selby.gov.uk/elections">www.selby.gov.uk/elections</a>

### Statement by the Police Area Returning Officer for North Yorkshire

This website contains more information about those candidates (where provided) and other information useful to voters. The information provided by a candidate is their responsibility, and may not reflect the opinions of myself or my council. As Police Area Returning Officer I am responsible for coordinating the election and announcing the result in North Yorkshire. Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Elections will be held in North Yorkshire on 25th November 2021; the candidates standing in that election, alphabetically by surname (as they will appear on the ballot paper), are:

- Barham-Brown, Hannah (Women's Equality Party)
- Barker, James (Liberal Democrats)
- Metcalfe, Zoë (Conservative Party Candidate)
- Scott-Spivey, Emma (The Labour Party Candidate)
- Tordoff, Keith Graham (Independent)

I can be contacted at:

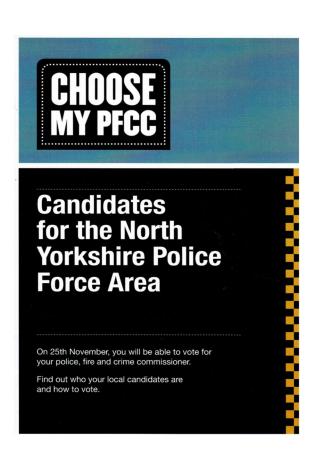
Janet Waggott

Civic Centre

Doncaster Road Selby Y08 9FT

jwaggott@selby.gov.uk

01757 705101



# We asked questions and raised concerns



From: Janet Waggott < jwaggott@selby.gov.uk>

Date: Tue, 2 Nov 2021 at 18:38

Subject: election for police and crime commissioner

To: anthonymacaulay510@gmail.com <anthonymacaulay510@gmail.com>

Dear Mr Macaulay

Thank you for your email.

I have responded to each point you have raised and used a different colour so it is easy to see my response

- On what date was the notice of election published? Thursday 21 October 2021
- Where was the notice of election displayed? It was displayed on each of the local authority websites in the North Yorkshire area.
- Was the notice displayed in Library's, Parish noticeboards? Not that I am aware at the moment unless it has been placed by the respective library or Parish Council themselves.
- How are/were electors expected to learn of the vacancy? The vacancy in the office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner was announced when the former Commissioner Philip Allott resigned. The resignation was announced in the local and national media and a Notice of Vacancy was published on each of the local authority websites in the North Yorkshire area. With regard to learning about the election, each registered elector in North Yorkshire will get a poll card in the post informing them of how they can vote in the election.
- How many registered electors are there in North Yorkshire? Currently there are 623,581 electors registered in North Yorkshire.
- How does anyone without internet access find out about the candidates? On the poll cards sent to each elector, there is information about a candidates website and phone number 0808 196 2170, which electors can ring to request a printed copy of the candidate booklet outlining details of the candidates standing. This can also be requested in large print, braille or audio version.
- The polling station in Ingleton is the Scout Hut at Mealbank, I do not consider this a suitable location for a polling station given its location on the edge of the village, access from the village down a steep incline and the high number of electors of limited mobility owing to age and infirmity, I therefore request a more suitable polling station be provided within the village community.

I have spoken to the Local Returning Officer and am aware that the polling station you refer to was not the first choice as the usual polling station for that area is being used for vaccinations, the second choice was also unavailable. The polling station is in the Ingleton polling district and has good parking. The building is suitable for a one way system having a separate entrance and exit.

# We requested additional information.



Can you tell me who publishes the candidate information, how much it cost for this election and who pays for it?

- It is published by the Minister for the Cabinet Office. The costs have not been finalised for the recent byelection. This is paid for out of the Consolidated Fund.

As you may be aware the information about each candidate, the candidate address (a maximum of 300 words) is published on the choosemypfcc website. It is for the candidates themselves to decide how much more publicity they intend to do and how they chose to publicise their candidate. This varies between each candidate and can be targeted as leaflet drops or using social media.

How many people requested a printed information pack? - 16

Was the printed candidate information only available by request?

- Yes

#### Voting in person

Can you tell me how many people voted at the Ingleton Polling Station?

39 people voted at the polling station in Ingleton.

The average polling station turnout across Craven was 47.

The candidate Information Booklet is published by

The Minister for the Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS

We have asked for details of cost and circulation but the information has not been provided.

# Equal Access to democracy is essential, the process must be seen to be fair - No one can be favoured and No one must be disadvantaged!



1. The electorate MUST HAVE proper notice they can reasonably be expected to see and a reasonable amount of time to prepare and propose candidates!

### Democracy in action.

When a vacancy arises on a Parish Council, due to an existing Councillor's resignation, disqualification or death, there is a process to fill the vacancy:-

- 1. The Parish Council will notify the Proper Officer of the vacancy.
- 2. The Proper Officer will send the Parish Council a notice, which they have a duty to display (within the community) for 14 working days, telling residents about the vacancy.

### **Voter Suppression in practice**

When the office of PFCC becomes vacant a 'notice' is 'posted' in a place where it is known a majority of the electorate will never see it.

### 3. Candidature, Party and Campaign Rights and Responsibilities

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of their country and shall have an equal opportunity to become a candidate for election.

So while a Parish Council has to give 14 working days notice; when the office of PFCC becomes vacant the electorate are given just FIVE working days 'notice' from the date the election is called.

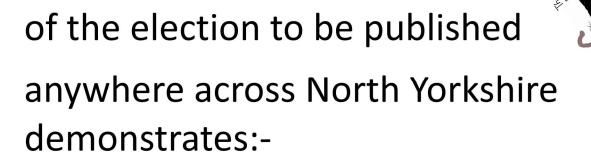
The 'buried' notice and shortened time frame effectively exclude a majority of the electorate.

- 2. Five working days notice of an election clearly disadvantages a majority of the electorate, is an insult to Democracy, a travesty, blatantly unfair and prejudicial to the community rendering the election process a farce and undermining trust and belief in the police and fire service.
- 3. A majority of the electorate are effectively excluded from becoming a candidate
- 4. The process is clearly heavily biased in favour of the established political parties from the very start to the detriment of both community and democracy.

The scale of digital exclusion in the UK. The number of adults who have either never used the internet or have not used it in the last three months, described as "internet non-users", has been declining over recent years. Since 2011, this number has almost halved, but in 2018 there were still 5.3 million adults in the UK, or 10.0% of the adult UK population, in this situation.

Exploring the UK's digital divide - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)

# For NO PUBLIC NOTICE

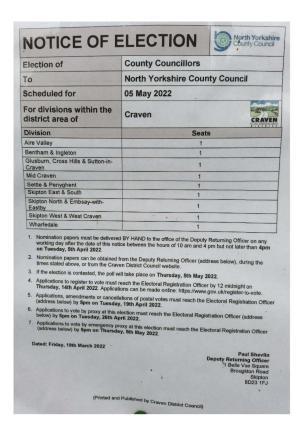


- Scandalous disregard for Democracy
- Total contempt for the electorate

# VOTER SUPPRESSION undermines Democracy!

Notices are published for other elections and displayed within communities, so why not for the election to fill a position as important as that of the Police Fire & Crime Commissioner?

Election of Parish Co			
	uncillors		
for the Parishes and Parish Wards listed below			
Parishes	Number of Parish Councillors to be elected		
Austwick	Five		
Bentham Parish, High Bentham Ward	Eight		
Bentham Parish, Low Bentham Ward	Three		
Bradleys Both	Seven		
Burton-In-Lonsdale	Seven		
Clapham-Cum-Newby	Six		
Coniston Cold	Five		
Cononley	Seven		
Famhill	Seven		
Gargrave	Nine		
Giggleswick	Nine		
Glusburn and Cross Hills	Ten		
Hellifield	Seven		
Horton-In-Ribblesdale	Seven		
Ingleton	Ten		
Kirkby Malhamdale Hanlith	One		
Kirkby Malhamdale Kirkby Malham	Two		
Kirkby Malhamdale Malham	Four		
Kirkby Malhamdale Malham Moor	Two		
Langcliffe	Seven		
Long Preston	Seven		
Lothersdale	Five		
Ribblebanks Halton West Ribblebanks Rathmell	One		
Ribblebanks Wigglesworth	Two		
Settle Settle	Two		
Stainforth	Eleven		
Thornton-In-Lonsdale	Five		
- Torrisuale	Five		
1. Forms of nomination for Parish Elections may be obtained from Clerk Square, Broughton Road, Skylon, BD23 191 from the Returning Officer, 1 Benefit of any electroal area prepare a nomination paper. The property of the Parish Returning Officer, 1 Belief V. BC22 175 on any working day after the date of this notice between the Stage 185 on any working day after the date of this notice between the Stage 185 on any working day after the date of this notice between the Stage 185 of the Stage 185	use Square, Broughton Road, Skipton, hours of Jam and 4pm, but no later 1022.  Ricer by 12 midnight on Thursday 14 14-14-14-14 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 19 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18		



I consider myself to be internet savvy and reasonably in tune with local events but

# I didn't know there was to be an election until the

polling card came in the post!





It is an offence to:	If you are away or cannot go to the polling
<ul> <li>vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for</li> </ul>	station on Thursday 25th November 2021 you can do one of the following:
another person	Apply to vote by post Completed applications
<ul> <li>vote as a proxy at this election for more than two people, unless you are their spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild</li> </ul>	must reach us before 5pm on Wednesday 10th November 2021. If you are given a postal vote, you will not be able to vote in person at this election. OR
vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote	Apply to vote by proxy (this means someone else can vote on your behalf). Completed
If you need any help or to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us.	applications must reach us before 5pm on Wednesday 17th November 2021. If you appoin a proxy, you can vote if you wish, but only if your proxy has not already voted on your behalf and has not got a postal vote for you:
Helpline Number: 01756 700600	
Email: elections@cravendc.gov.uk	If after 5pm on Wednesday 17th November 2021 you are unable to vote in person because you:
www.cravendc.gov.uk	Have a medical emergency
The Local Returning Officer issued this card.	<ul> <li>Learn you cannot go to the polling station because of work reasons</li> </ul>
	You can apply to vote by proxy. Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on Thursday 25th November 2021. To find out how to apply, call the helpfine on 01756 700600.

# The electorate are being treated with contempt!

Access to candidates and Information is a VITAL ELEMENT in any election!

- You will note the Polling Card is big on warnings to the electorate yet telling people where they can find more information is almost an afterthought?
- It has been accepted practice in all UK elections for generations that those seeking election actively court the electorate, making themselves available to speak to electors and providing information to enable people to make a reasonably informed choice between the various candidates, in local elections the candidates are usually well known in the community too.
- The candidates are proactive in seeking support, information is readily provided to electors without them having to look for it.
- The election of a PFCC varies distinctly from other elections in ways that seriously and materially disadvantage the electorate while working to the advantage of political parties, for people who do vote will vote for the party when they don't know the candidates.
- There is no election campaign, candidates do not circulate any information to or communicate with electors in any way other than with an online statement that electors have to actively seek out.
- In all other elections the candidates are proactive, seeking support, yet in this election it is the electors who have to seek out information on the candidates who play a passive role,
- Candidates are largely unknown to the electorate who have no chance to meet or challenge the candidates.
- The above turns the electorate into bystanders, making it impossible for voters to make an informed choice, pushing those who want to vote towards a party and making the election little better than a game of pinning the tail on a donkey?

(5) Every voter has the right to equal and effective access to a polling station in order to exercise his or her right to vote.

# No one can be denied the opportunity to vote in the way they choose to exercise their democratic rights.

• The parish of Ingleton has a high rate of deprivation, the designated polling station was the Scout Hut at Mealbank, I do not consider this a suitable location for a polling station given its location on the edge of the village, access from the village down a steep incline and the high number of electors of limited mobility owing to age and infirmity, I therefore request a more suitable polling station be provided within the village community. I have spoken to the Local Returning Officer and am aware that the polling station you refer to was not the first choice as the usual polling station for that area is being used for vaccinations, the second choice was also unavailable. The polling station is in the Ingleton polling district and has good parking .The building is suitable for a one way system having a separate entrance and exit.

I have spoken to people within the community of Ingleton who have told me honestly and unequivocally they wanted to vote in person in this election, and would have voted, but were denied the opportunity to exercise their democratic rights because the polling station at Ingleton was inaccessible to them.







# 3. Candidature, Party and Campaign Rights and Responsibilities

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of their country and shall have an equal opportunity to become a candidate for election.



# **Unreasonable conditions**

# Heavily biased in favour of political party's

# exclude a majority of the electorate!

- 1. The lack of proper notice ensures only a small number of people are even aware there is to be an election so are excluded from becoming candidates from the very start, in fact the very first act is to ensure only a minority are able to become candidates.
- 2. Candidates must secure the signatures of 100 people (reduced to 16 in North Yorkshire until April 2022) registered to vote within the force area in which they wish to stand and must pay a deposit of £5,000.
- 3. Requiring candidates to deposit £5,000, while severely restricting the available time to do so, clearly, and intentionally, disadvantages a large section of the electorate making the very short notice even more devastating, and at the same time clearly favouring the political parties and wealthier individuals.
- 4. Who can stand for election must surely be a matter for the electorate. Despotic regimes and Dictatorships ensure only favoured candidates are allowed to stand but surely in a democracy everyone must have equal opportunity to participate as a candidate? Using nefarious means to restrict candidacy surely must be unacceptable to any reasonable person?
- 5. Having access to £5,000 is no guarantee of a person being fit to hold the office, having only days at most to raise such a sum is itself deeply discriminatory, any more than not having the money means the person is unfit this requirement clearly discriminates against and disadvantages many people who could potentially be otherwise outstanding candidates.

# The area covered by the election

# is simply enormous.

in the case of North Yorkshire it encompasses:

731 Parishes, (556 with a Parish Council or Meeting) and

8 District Councils,

Selby

Harrogate

Craven

Richmondshire

City of York

Ryedale

Scarborough

Hambleton

8 Parliamentary Constituencies, information from the UK Parliament website

Constituency	Electorate at 2019		
	general election	MP	Political Party
Harrogate and Knaresborough	77,941	Andrew Jones	Conservative
Richmond (Yorks)	82,569	Rishi Sunak	Conservative
Scarborough and Whitby	74,404	Robert Goodwill	Conservative
Selby and Ainsty	78,398	Nigel Adams	Conservative
Skipton and Ripon	78,673	Julian Smith	Conservative
Thirsk and Malton	80,991	Kevin Hollinrake	Conservative
York Central	74,899	Rachael Maskell	Labour (co-op)
York outer	74,673	Julian Sturdy	Conservative

How many registered electors are there in North Yorkshire? – Currently there are 623,581 electors registered in North Yorkshire.



# There is no place for such conduct in any Democracy!



- Undisguised Voter Suppression
- Conditions designed to prohibit the majority while favouring a minority!
- The electorate treated as an irrelevance, even with contempt!

If Democracy truly reflects the will of the majority,

When a majority reject a blatantly unfair election process,

The resulting election cannot be considered valid and must be

DECLARED NULL and VOID! Otherwise it is not Democracy!

Empower the electorate

1. There is no threshold of turnout required, the election is considered valid no matter how few people vote, requiring a minimum turnout would end voter suppression methods and re-invigorate our Democracy!

Democratic decisions, decisions that have democratic legitimacy, are all based on a majority – but if the majority of electors are excluded from the process, by whatever means, for whatever reason, then there is surely no way any outcome can be reasonably seen as Democratic or legitimate?

North Yorkshire has an electorate comprising 623,581 voters, the 'winning' candidate received just 34,385 first preference votes and 7375 second preference votes.

Parliament approved minimum ballot legislation for some union ballots, the principal has been accepted by all parties so surely what better way to empower the electorate, reinvigorate democracy and ensure energetic elections with high levels of voter participation than to require a minimum required turnout for any ballot to be considered valid -50%?

Ballot thresholds for industrial action 25.Section 226(2) of the 1992 Act sets minimum thresholds of a 50% turnout in all industrial action ballots.

# DECLARATION OF SECOND COUNT TOTALS

# Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Election

Thursday 25 November 2021

I, Janet Waggott, being the Police Area Returning Officer, at the election for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for the North Yorkshire Police Area, do hereby give notice that the number of second preference votes recorded for each of the remaining candidates at the said election is as follows:

Name of Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of second preference votes
APPLETON-METCALFE, Zoë Estelle	Conservative Party Candidate	7375
SCOTT-SPIVEY, Emma Nicole	Labour Party	8801

The number of ballot papers rejected at the second count is as follows:		Number of ballot papers	
Α	want of an official mark	0	
В	voting for more than one candidate as to the second preference vote	155	
С	writing or mark by which voter could be identified	1	
D	unmarked as to the second preference vote	2963	
E	void for uncertainty	8	
	Total:	3127	

The total number of first and second preference votes given for those two candidates is as follows:

Name of Candidate	First preference votes	Second preference votes	Total first and second preference votes
APPLETON-METCALFE, Zoë Estelle	34385	7375	41760
SCOTT-SPIVEY, Emma Nicole	18094	880	26895

I therefore declare that **Zoe Estelle Appleton-Metcalfe** is elected as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for the North Yorkshire Police Area.

Signed: Sanet Waggott

Name:

**Janet Waggott** 

Dated: Friday 26 November 2021

Every effort has been made to ensure the contents of this document are accurate, impartial and objective.



The author is not a member, or supporter of any political party.

All views expressed in this document are those of the author, information we have obtained from other sources is attributed below each article.

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