

Office of The
CHIEF RABBI

4 March 2026

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Castle Car Park, Castlegate, York [22/00209/FULM]

The deeply tragic history of Clifford's Tower is of enormous consequence to the British Jewish community and is similarly well-known to Jews right around the world. Indeed, what transpired by way of zealous violence by a non-Jewish mob against Jews taking refuge in the Tower in 1190 is highly emblematic of centuries of Jewish vulnerability and persecution at the hands of tyrannical rulers. This is why this episode in our history is permanently seared into the collective Jewish psyche.

It is fitting that the City of York should enable clear and unequivocal recognition of the site and its poignance in Jewish history. It is both a particular Jewish tragedy, and deserves to be commemorated as such, while also providing crucial lessons to all of society, of the dangers of unchecked hatred and violence. This is why a fitting, and clearly delineated space will serve such an important educative and reflective purpose, for residents and visitors to York. It will undoubtedly command considerable national and global attention, owing to the iconic and infamous nature of this place.

I am very grateful to the authorities in York for prioritising this vital endeavour, and for working closely with the Jewish community to create a highly resonant public memorial space and an appropriately sized space to accommodate a range of tours as well as civic and religious events, as part of the Castle and Eye of York scheme.



Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis KBE

