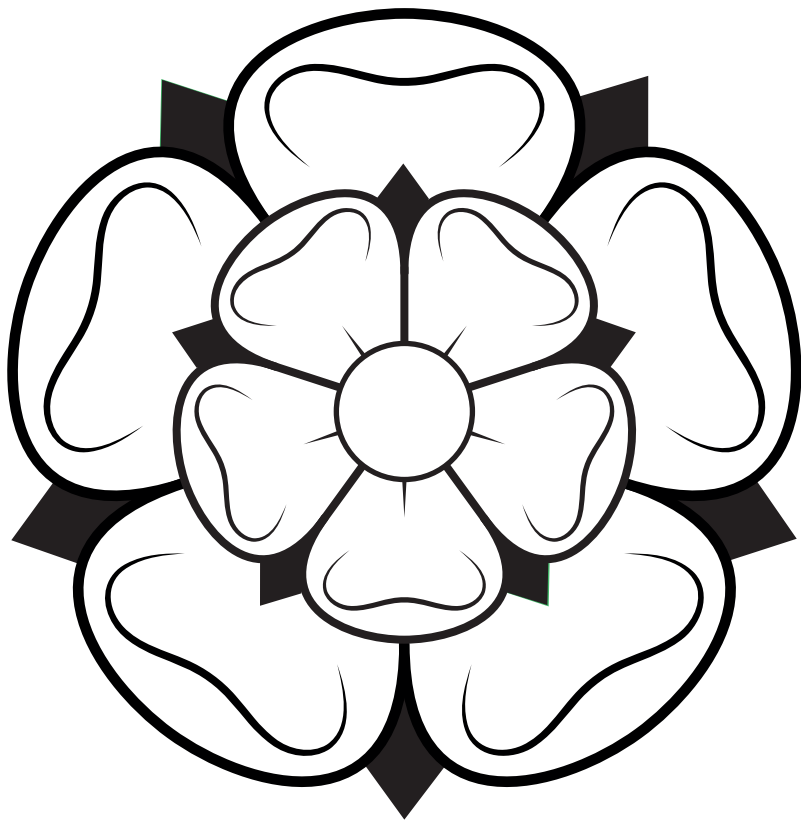


Yorkshire Declaration



Yorkshire Declaration

We, citizens of the Ancient Kingdom and cultural province of Yorkshire, with its three historic Ridings and its former capital city of York, nowadays part of England within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, make the following declaration:

Yorkshire has for too long been regarded and treated by London-centred monarchs, landed aristocrats and political leaders as little more than a colonial outpost, whose resources and people are there to be exploited for personal enrichment.

In the early twenty-first century, differences between the more prosperous parts of Southern England and those of the North in terms of community, wealth, personal well-being (enhanced health and life-expectancy) and career opportunities, have been allowed to become ever wider.

It has been rightly said that “England is highly centralised, with far greater regional economic inequalities compared with other Western European countries” and also that so-called “Levelling Up” can only be achieved by properly resourced English Devolution. Further studies show how Local Government has over the last decade been systematically starved of financial resources with 95% of UK tax revenues now being seized by central Government and 75% of expenditure controlled by Whitehall and Westminster.

We note that London, now by far the most prosperous Region of England has, since 2000, had its own directly elected Assembly of 25 members. The elected Mayor of London is directly answerable to this democratically elected body. Yet in contrast in Yorkshire, even the Government Office for Yorkshire & The Humber Region in Leeds, was closed by the Coalition Government in 2012 as a so-called austerity measure. Even what little we had was taken away.

Yorkshire is a Region of over 5.4 million people, almost identical in population size to Norway, Denmark and Scotland, and rich in natural and human resources. It should be one of the most prosperous Regions in both the UK and Europe. Yet astonishingly Yorkshire has a GDP per capita less than half that of London and significantly less than the UK and European average. This is the direct result of decades of over-centralised Government neglect, asset-stripping and mismanagement.

Despite this, central Government investment, including the partially aborted HS2, continues to be directed to the South East. Government funding for transport per head is now three times higher in Greater London than in Yorkshire. Leeds remains the largest conurbation in western Europe without a modern Rapid Transit system and even the main Trans Pennine railway linking Yorkshire with other Regions of the North has yet to be electrified.

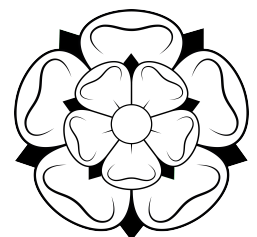
We believe that only through a strong and effective system of Regional Governance, as established in other more economically successful European countries, can Yorkshire fulfil its true potential. The French, Germans, Austrians and Swiss with their Régions Métropoles, Länder and Cantons, all trust their regions to lead the way, enabling people to come together and take control of their own destinies.

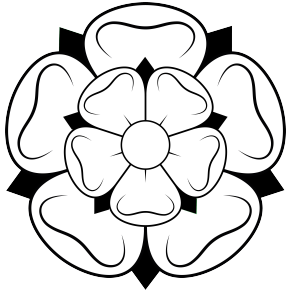
We ask every Yorkshire-born man and woman, of every background and faith, as well as those who have come to Yorkshire from elsewhere to settle, live and work, to support our campaign to ensure that Devolution for Yorkshire is a key commitment within the manifestos of all politicians in Yorkshire seeking our vote for the coming General Election. London already has its own Assembly. Devolution must ensure that Yorkshire likewise has a democratically elected Assembly or Parliament of its own, but crucially via proportional representation. This must include devolution of responsibility for tax-raising and budgetary control to this new level of regional governance, as well as to the elected Metro Mayors and to our local authorities.

Yorkshire is a proud and beautiful part of Northern England, with its own distinctive history, magnificent landscape, rich culture, ancient Anglo-Viking dialect of English and a gifted, creative workforce. The biggest single barrier to its future is that it is treated by arrogant and complacent Whitehall and Westminster as an outpost of a now long defunct Empire.

It is time for change. It is time for real Devolution in England. It is time to recognise the United Kingdom as a dynamic partnership of Nations and Regions, including an England of nine equally proud English Regions, one of which is Yorkshire.

This Declaration was signed by 100 Yorkshire citizens and read at the Eye of York on 1st April 2024 to mark the 50th anniversary of the implementation of the Act of Parliament that abolished the thousand year-old East, North and West Ridings of Yorkshire.





Signatories to the Yorkshire Declaration:

**Adam Binnington • Alan Staniforth • Dr Alison Harrop • Albert Elliot
Andrew Howarth • Andrew Roper • Dr Arun Bakshi • Ben Crick • Bill Breakell
Bob Buxton • Boni Williams • Bula Chakraborty • Dr Chris Wright
Colin Ormesher • Colin Speakman • Daniel Machon • Daniel Woodlock
Darren Longhorn • David Beatson • Dr David Neave • David Pendleton
David Turner Rhodes • David Wilford • Debra Moore • Diane Hall
Eddie Lawler • Elise Beatson • Dr Emma Storr • Graham Mitchell
Ian Macfadyen • J Addison • J M Bradford • James Speed • Jan Furlong
Jayne Beatson • Jean Illingworth • Jennifer Hall • Jess Nelson • Jim Jarratt
John Gilham • John Hall • John Shacklock • John White • John Winstanley
Josh Daniels • Karen Senior • Kathryn Littlewood • Keith Fenton
Kelly Hicks • Kev Lewis • Kevin Thirkettle • Linda Nutbein • Liz Barber
Liz Leach Murphy • Louise Houghton • Magda Hindson • Mark Kelly
Michael Croft • Michael Meadowcroft • Michael Pascal • Mick Bower
Mike Farren • Miranda Stork • Niccola Swan • Nicholas Brady
Nicholas Honoraty • Nicola Protopapadakis • Nicols Brogden • Nigel Nicholl
Nina H R Smith • Paul Kirby • Peter Garforth • Peter Hemmerman
Peter Jones • Peter Spafford • Phil Atkinson • Phil Bell • Philip Hardstone
Richard Honoraty • Professor Richard Morris • Rick Arrand • Ricky Gibson
Rod Dimpleby • Sir Rodney Brooke • Ruth Hannan • Sarah Baron
Sarah Hannan • Simon Biltcliffe • Dr Simon Duffy • Sophie Mei Lan
Steve Gardham • Steve Mounce • Stewart Arnold • Stuart Coates
Stuart Firth • Susan Clapham • Susan Hall • Susan Price • Tchiyiwe Chihana
Tim Barber • Tom Chadwick • Tony Grogan • Vicky Place**

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The title font is LT Yorkshire and body font is Charter.
