



APOLOGY TO MR PAUL PONTING

📅 08 July 2021

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Mr Ponting was an unpaid member of North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes ('NWBBLL', 'NWBB', 'we', 'our') and volunteered his time and motorcycle to this charity.

On 20/8/2018, Paul Brooks, (who was at the time the charity chairman) posted an article about Mr Ponting on our website. The article was malicious, unlawful and should never have been published.

We are aware this caused Mr Ponting significant alarm and distress as we left the article public on our website for 41 days, even after Mr Ponting had requested for it to be removed on several occasions.

This incident, and one other, was reported to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO), who upheld Mr Ponting's complaints, saying;

"I have considered the information available in relation to this complaint, and I am of the view that NWBB has not complied with their Data Protection obligations. This is because it appears that they have not used appropriate lawful bases for processing special category data.

Furthermore, they have not held this information securely, as they published it on their website. In addition, it does not appear that this reporting of the facts is correct."

NWBBLL failed to investigate the circumstances regarding the article posted by Paul Brooks and should have afforded Mr Ponting the same rights and privileges as any other member of NWBBLL, which we now accept we did not do.

We also recognise that Mr Ponting's personal data recorded on 2/7/2018 was not kept in accordance with GDPR laws. We have since reviewed our GDPR compliance externally so that such a breach will not occur again.

We accept the outcome of the complaints that were brought to the attention of the ICO in relation to Mr Ponting.

North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes formally apologise to Mr Ponting for any hurt or distress the above incidents have caused.

The Committee accept that Mr Ponting's dismissal from the charity by Mr Brooks was not valid and that the correct version of the record of his membership has been amended to 'resigned'.

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Address

North West Blood Bikes Lancs & Lakes.
Unit 5
Momentum Place
Bamber Bridge
Lancashire
PR5 6EF

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📞 01772 338 868

✉ contact@nwbb-lancs.org

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