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The banner features a background image of a police officer in uniform with a rainbow sash. A blue horizontal bar across the middle contains the text "Scottish LGBTI Police Association" in white, with the tagline "Representing the needs and interests of LGBTI police officers and staff in Scotland" below it. Two large black rectangular redaction boxes are positioned at the top of the banner. In the bottom right corner of the banner area is the association's logo, which includes the text "1990-2020", "SCOTTISH LGBTI POLICE ASSOCIATION", and "50TH ANNIV. CELEBRATION".

**Scottish LGBTI Police Association**  
Representing the needs and interests of LGBTI police officers and staff in Scotland

LGBTI + History Month – February 2024  
De-criminalisation of Homosexuality

11/01/2024

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Welcome page only.

Introduce myself and being an ally.

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Welcome to this input on the De-criminalisation of Homosexuality. LGBTI+ History Month is celebrated every February and the events scheduled throughout this month are intended to raise awareness of and to continue to combat prejudice against the LGBTI+ community as well as acknowledging the achievements reached so far. The purpose of this input is to bring us together to celebrate this journey and to draw attention to some of the significant milestones made along the way. May I take a moment to remind you that this is a safe place and respect our colleagues who may share their personal experiences today.

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**Click** - The first person I would like to introduce is Roberta Cowell. In 1951, she is the first known British trans woman to undergo re-assignment surgery and have their birth certificate changed

**Click** – In 1957 the Wolfenden Committee published a report, recommending that ‘homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private should no longer be a criminal offence’. Supporters of this recommendation include the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher and the British Medical Association. Despite this, the recommendations are rejected by the Government.

**Click** – In 1963 the Minorities Research Group becomes the UK’s first lesbian social and political organisation and goes on to publish a monthly journal – Arena Three.

**Click** - The Sexual Offences Act of 1967 decriminalises sex in England between two men over 21 and ‘in private’. It did not extend to the Merchant Navy, Armed forces, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, where sex between two men remained illegal.

1969 – North west Homosexual Law Reform Committee becomes a UK-wide organisation and is renamed as the Committee for Homosexual equality. The Committee attracts support from leading figures in the medical profession, the arts and the church.

**Click** – and of course we have the Stonewall riots in America – a series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations by members of the LGBT community against a police raid on the Stonewall Inn, Manhattan. This key event triggers the modern LGBT liberation movement in the US and beyond. In 1975 the Liberal Party, now the Liberal Democrats became the first UK political party to support LGBT rights, passing a motion at conference to support ‘full equality for homosexuals’, including equalising the age of consent.

**Click** - Sex between two men over 21 ‘in private’ is decriminalised in Scotland in 1980.

1986 – Mark Rees (trans male) brings a case to ECourt of HR stating that UK law prevented him from gaining legal status recognising him as male. His case was lost but the Court recognises seriousness of issues facing trans people.

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**Click** - 1988 sees the introduction of S28 of the Local Govt Act which states that local authority shall not intentionally promote homosexuality/publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality/promote the teaching...in school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship..’ In this year, Denmark becomes first country in the world to give legal recognition to same-sex partnerships.

**Click** – In 1992 World Health Organisation declassifies same-sex as a mental illness. Isle of Man repeals sodomy laws.

1994 – House of Commons lowers age of consent to 18. Isle of Man fully decriminalises homosexuality.

1997 –UK govt recognises same-sex partners for immigration purposes.

1998 – The Bolton 7 (gay/bi-men) who were convicted of gross indecency took their case to ECourt of Human Rights claiming a breach of Article 8 (right to private life). They were awarded compensation by UK govt.

2000 – UK Govt lifts ban on lesbians/gay men/bi-people serving in armed forces. Scotland abolishes S28.

2001 – Age of consent is lowered to 16, equals the age of consent for heterosexuals.

2002 – Equal rights are granted to same-sex couples applying for adoption.

2004 – Civil Partnership Act is passed, which gives same-sex couples the same rights and responsibilities as married straight couples in rest of UK. Gender Recognition Act is passed, giving trans people full legal recognition in their appropriate gender. The Act allows trans people to get a new birth certificate, although gender options are limited to male/female.

2007 – Same-sex couples have equality in adoption and fostering in Scotland.

2008 – Same-sex couples recognised as legal parents of children conceived through donated sperm/eggs/embryos.

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2013 –Alan Turing is given a posthumous royal pardon for his conviction of ‘gross indecency’ which led to him being chemically castrated and later completed suicide.

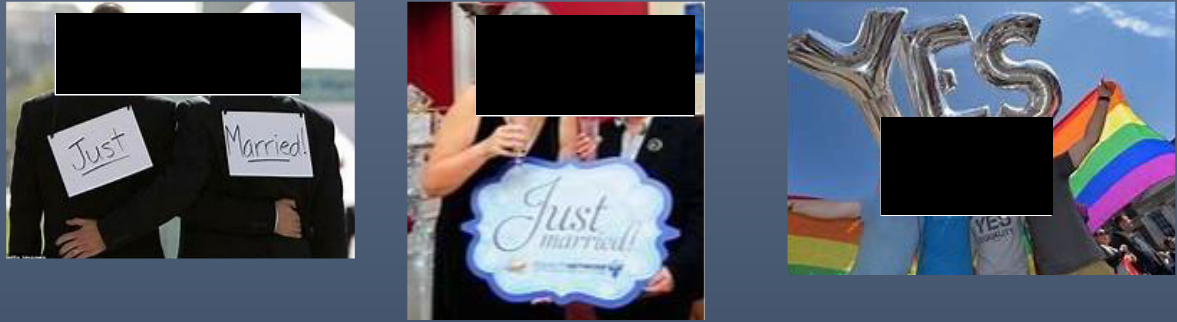
The Protection of Freedoms Act is passed, in 2012, allowing historic convictions for consensual sex between men to be removed from criminal records.

And in 2013 the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act is passed in England & Wales. Also this year, Alan Turing is given a posthumous royal pardon for his conviction of ‘gross indecency’.

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## OFFICIAL

Claiming our past      Celebrating our present      Creating our future



UK issues posthumous pardons for thousands of gay men

Closed consultation  
**Banning conversion therapy**  
Updated 9 December 2021

Click once to bring up Claiming our past

Click again to bring up Celebrating our present

Click again to bring up Creating our future

Click - 2014 sees same-sex couples being allowed to marry in Scotland – two images

Click – In 2015 Ireland becomes first in the world to votes to legalise same-sex marriage

Click - 2017 sees the posthumous pardon to all gay/bi-men who were convicted under pernicious sexual offences

In 2018 the Scottish Govt issues pardons to all gay/bi-men who were convicted of having consensual sex with other men before it was decriminalised in 1981.

Same-sex becomes legal in Northern Ireland in 2020.

Click - 2021 sees the Govt announces plans to ban conversion therapy

The work continues to achieve equal rights for all, in all aspects of life.

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**Scottish Police Rugby champions promote HeForShe at Four Nations Tournament**

**Police chiefs sanction baseball caps on patrol before launch of unisex hats**

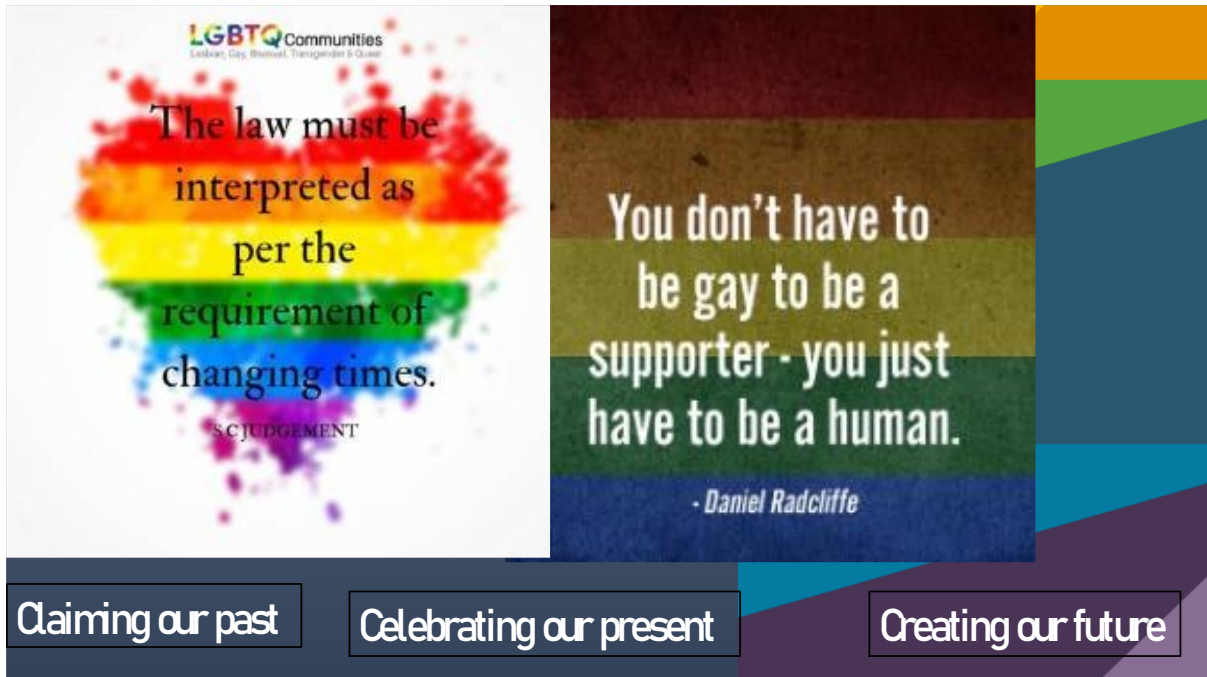
LGBTI+ History Month is just one of the ways that Police Scotland have embraced this important annual awareness event and recognising the contribution LGBTI+ colleagues have made to the service and society. Having ACC Mairs as the senior sponsor of the Scottish LGBTI+ Police Association, an entire section of the intranet is testament to the seriousness with which LGBTI+ is considered and how central they are to Policing Together.

Police Scotland and the Scottish LGBTI Police Assoc have launched LGBT Allies network to help create an inclusive and supportive workplace . An ally is any person that actively promotes and aspires to advance the culture of inclusion through intentional, positive and conscious efforts that benefit people as a whole.

The Scottish LGBTI Police Association AGM and Awards Ceremony takes place annually.

2019 – Introduction of unisex baseball caps in an effort to end gender distinctions.

From a personal point of view, I have observed a change in attitude towards LGBTI and language used. Having open conversations about how working together improves the service and further develops public support and confidence.



Click once to bring up Claiming our past

Click again to bring up Celebrating our present

Click again to bring up Creating our future

Click to bring up second image – Daniel Radcliffe

Despite the monumental efforts made in the UK and many parts of Europe, there is still much to do and being gay is still criminalised in many parts of the world. As at 2017, the BBC reported that there are 72 countries which explicitly outlaw homosexuality and others that enforce some form of restriction.

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Thank you for your attention. I would now invite and welcome any questions you may have.