



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR NORFOLK



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY

Our Priority is You

Rt.Hon. David Lidington MP
Lord Chancellor and
Secretary of State for Justice
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
NR18 0WW

Our Ref: LG/SB/ATP

Direct Dial: 01953 424458

13th November 2017

Dear Secretary of State

We are writing to urge strong Government support for the Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Bill which we understand currently is scheduled for House of Commons Committee stage on 15 November.

Assaults against officers and staff should not be 'just part of the job' and we retain admiration for any officer that exposes themselves to the dangers that comes with working on the frontline.

Assaults not only affect the individual concerned, but have a detrimental effect on the Constabulary's absence and sickness levels. In the last 6 months from 1st April 2017 –12th November 2017, 333 instances of an assault against a police officer were recorded in Norfolk. In 90 of these cases, the assault resulted in a physical injury, recorded as an injury on duty. Some of these injuries require long term care for the officers and staff, for example where an officer has been bitten or spat at, and a number of tests are required.

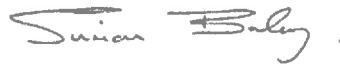
Notwithstanding the emotional and welfare impact that these absences have on the individual officers, the levels of absence also impact on colleagues both in absorbing the impact of the absence and maintaining the service that the public expect and deserve from Norfolk Police.

The national trend in increased assaults is reflected in our county. We believe that stronger sentencing would be both appropriate to the gravity of the offence and send a strong deterrent signal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Lorne Green', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lorne Green
Police and Crime Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Simon Bailey', with a cursive script.

Simon Bailey
Chief Constable

Cc: Chris Bryant MP
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners