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XXXXX MP
Member of Parliament

Sent via email:

Our Ref:

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19 February 2018

Dear XXXX

I am writing to invite and encourage your active engagement in the further passage of the Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Bill. This private members bill next comes before the House of Commons for further consideration in April.

This is a really important initiative which seeks to underline the importance of protecting emergency workers of all kinds from assaults. The Bill proposes to increase sentencing for such crimes from 6 months to 1 year.

In our county alone, in a recent 12 month period, 390 assaults were recorded against police officers alone. In the current calendar year, at least 22 such assaults were recorded in the first few weeks. This is an intolerable situation. We need our police officers and other emergency workers on the front line, not sitting as patients in hospital A&Es. We need our police officers and other emergency workers on duty, not absent on sick leave. If such attacks on those who come to work every day to protect us are not treated with the upmost gravity, then we risk descending to a state of lawlessness.

I consider that we have an important duty as public officials to do all we can to protect our protectors. I do not believe that increasing the penalty from 6 months to 12 months is a sufficient deterrent, nor does it adequately indicate to the community the gravity of the offence. In my view, a maximum penalty of 5 years would be more appropriate, particularly in cases of aggravated assault such as spitting or exchange of blood which could carry the risk of serious illness.

I hope you might see your way clear to doing what you can amongst your parliamentary colleagues to support this important piece of legislation, and to reinforce the Bill as suggested in this letter.

I would like to think that a collective cross-party support from the Norfolk Members of Parliament would have a significant impact in Parliament and at the same time register to our outstanding Norfolk emergency workers our commitment to them, and the respect we have for what they do.

I am copying the letter to all your Norfolk colleagues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lorne Green', with a stylized flourish extending downwards from the end of the name.

Lorne Green
Police and Crime Commissioner