

The Rt Hon Nick Hurd  
Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service

To all Norfolk Members of Parliament

**Our Ref:** PCC/ts

**Reply to:**

**Direct Dial:** 01953 424455

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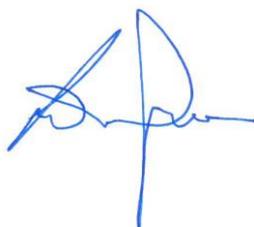
Dear ....

After a long hiatus the Service Animals (Offences) Bill – Finn’s Law - is back on the agenda for Parliamentary Committee consideration this Wednesday, 16 January 2019.

You will appreciate the hugely important role that service animals play in both crime prevention and enforcement. There are many tales of heroism such as those of our own Norfolk Police Dog, Neeko, demonstrated overleaf.

I am writing to you today to ask that you, through your parliamentary colleagues, encourage positive consideration to this Bill so that everything possible can be done to ensure Finn’s Law can be given early passage into law.

Yours sincerely



Lorne Green  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

## **Police Dog Neeko**

PC Jamie Ward and PD Neeko were deployed to a pursuit in the Wisbech area in October 2017 which involved a Volkswagen Golf. The driver was wanted by police, suspected of being involved in the supply of drugs. The pursuit then turned onto a road with a dead end, resulting in the driver and passenger abandoning the car, running across the A47 bypass into a field and then onto a nearby housing estate.

PC Ward arrived on scene five minutes after the car had been abandoned and when directed to the last known sighting of the driver. Neeko immediately picked up a track, taking PC Ward towards a large fence which surrounded the back garden of a house. The area was searched to no avail but Neeko picked up another track running parallel to the row of houses.

After getting to the last house, PD Neeko lifted his head and pulled towards the driveway where, underneath a parked caravan, he found one of the suspects hiding.

The suspect was identified as the driver of the Volkswagen who was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, failing to stop and possession of an offensive weapon.

## **Current Norfolk/Suffolk Police Dog data**

- 25 Police handlers
- 50 dogs establishment (2 per handler), albeit current numbers stand around 46.
- 1 dog per handler is a General Purpose (GP) Dog for searching/tracking/suspect handling etc
- There are 14 Exlpo (explosive search trained) dogs.
- There are 8 drugs trained dogs, 2 of which are 'passive' search trained. They are also cash and weapon search trained.