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

Our Ref: LG/kw

Reply to: Lorne Green

Direct Dial: 01953 424455

24 May 2018

Dear Lord Chancellor,

I was greatly encouraged by your visionary new jobs strategy aimed at cutting reoffending, announced today. This has been a major priority for me, and one in which I have invested substantial time and resources. In particular:

- I chair a multi-agency Gateway to Employment (GtoE) Board which seeks to overcome obstacles to ex-offender employment, and match ex-offenders with potential employers. We have had important successes with 83 potential providers and employers on our books and, since the beginning of the year, 43 job offers and interviews.
- I chair a multi-agency Rehabilitation Board which seeks solutions to the inter-related needs of ex-offenders around employment, accommodation, addressing personal needs and, mentor support.
- My office funds a county Community Chaplaincy scheme where volunteers provide role
 models and mentor support for offenders on their journey from prison to outside the
 prison gate and into the local community, family and friends.
- I launched a scheme as part of my election campaign pledge to bring rescue dogs into HMP Norwich, initially to provide emotional support for offenders. This Rescue Rehab scheme has been a great success, and with the prison we are now looking at expanding the scheme and integrating it into the prison regime education provision, equipping participants with recognised, marketable qualifications upon release.

Mr Gauke, the next meeting of the Gateway to Employment Board is 12 June and the Rehabilitation Board 26 June. I would like to invite you to attend one of these meetings to share experiences and ideas moving forward in this important mission.

We could also explore whether you might see my Rescue Rehab scheme in action, and meet an ex-offender who has profited from our Gateway to Employment scheme.

Continued overleaf

I think we could put together a really interesting and purposeful programme for you if you could see your way clear to coming to Norfolk. Of course, if the dates mentioned here are not possible, we could explore other possibilities later in the year.

With good wishes

Yours sincerely

Lorne Green

Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk