

Nick Timothy, Member of Parliament for West Suffolk



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

12 January 2026

Dear Lord Chancellor,

I write regarding a case that has exposed critical deficiencies in our legal framework.

In August 2024, my constituent Joe Luccarini, a vulnerable autistic adult, sustained life-changing injuries in a hit-and-run in Haverhill. The suspect absconded.

In January, the police closed the case, citing the six-month time limit for summary offences under Section 127 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980.

This was wrong. Legal experts confirmed to the BBC that causing serious injury by careless driving is an 'either way' offence, exempt from this six-month limit. Only after media intervention was the case reopened.

Since appearing on *BBC Look East*, Mr Luccarini and his family have been contacted by numerous families similarly denied justice following hit-and-runs causing serious injury, including in cases involving children.

This exposes two fundamental problems. First, the six-month limit itself can sometimes risk the denial of justice for victims of summary offences involving serious harm.

Second, the law's complexity can lead to misinterpretation even by police, with terrible consequences.

When I raised this in a Written Question, the minister stated the Government remains satisfied the statutory time limit is 'an important safeguard which ensures that less serious offences are dealt with promptly'.

In the case of Joe Luccarini, the system has failed a vulnerable victim.

Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner supports reform, and I am writing to ask you to consider how cases like Joe's can help us to ensure, in other cases in the future, justice will be done.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Timothy".

**Nick Timothy**  
**Member of Parliament for West Suffolk**

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