

GILES WATLING MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sir Nicholas Green
Law Commission
Chair
1st Floor, Tower
52 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AG

25th October 2018

Dear Sir Nicholas,

Re: Review into Hate Crime Legislation

I understand that, as part of your ongoing review into hate crime legislation, the Law Commission is considering whether to make elder abuse an aggravated offence.

Given such, I am writing to offer my strong support for elder abuse to become an aggravated offence. As you will no doubt be aware, this would make it a requirement for courts to apply a mandatory sentencing uplift. We already have this mandatory uplift for crimes motivated by prejudice based on someone's race, sexual orientation, religion, or disability, so why not age?

We simply must do more to ensure that those older people who face physical, financial, psychological, and sexual abuse get the justice they deserve – currently, there are one million victims of elder abuse each year in the UK, but only 0.3% of reported incidents result in a successful criminal conviction.

As the Member of Parliament for a constituency with the third highest percentage of residents over the age of 65, I am clear that we must correct this situation. Making elder abuse an aggravated offence will do that, and I am pleased to say that this change is also backed by my colleagues in Parliament, listed below.

I would be grateful if you could bear this in mind during your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Giles Watling'.

Giles Watling MP
Member of Parliament for Clacton

Alex Sobel MP
Antoinette Sandbach MP
Sir Bernard Jenkin MP
Darren Jones MP
Sir David Amess MP
Rt Hon Ed Vaizey MP
Glyn Davies MP

Ian Lucas MP
Jim Shannon MP
Kelvin Hopkins MP
Mark Menzies MP
Neil O'Brien MP
Nigel Evans MP
Pauline Latham MP

Rosie Cooper MP
Sir Roger Gale MP
Royston Smith MP
Ruth Smeeth MP
Tom Tugendhat MP
Wera Hobhouse MP

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