

Defending Higham from the plan for a new town – and listening to local businesses



Developers want to replace Higham, a much-loved village and conservation area, with a new town. I am clear that villages must remain villages, and I went to Higham last month to offer residents my support.

Pigeon promise a new railway station – something that strikes residents, and me, as unlikely, with Kennett only a short drive away. So I asked Network Rail whether a new station in Higham would be feasible. They confirmed to me that they have had only minimal engagement with the developers, and there has been no detailed proposal for a new station.

If Network Rail decides against building one, that could seriously undermine the developers' scheme. We must keep up the pressure.

Your voice in Parliament

For decades, Northern Ireland was ripped apart by violence. Hundreds of British soldiers died trying to keep the peace. But even now, the Government believes veterans should be hounded through the courts. When the Northern Ireland Troubles Bill was debated this week, I voted to end prosecutions for action taken in the line of duty. But Labour MPs voted us down.

Meanwhile, terrorists escape justice. Mohamed Mahmoud sought to join ISIS, fantasising about “killing as many apostates as I can.” The judge gave him a lighter sentence because of his “good character” and “naivety”, so he could be back on the streets in just eight years. And the Ministry of Justice let another convicted terrorist, Mohammed Yaseen, walk free too. Now they say he cannot be deported because he might be mistreated at home. I have written to ministers to demand urgent action.

Daily **Mail** News

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m+ EXCLUSIVE Islamic terrorist who came to Britain on small boat and can't be deported over concerns that HIS life would be in danger is spotted shopping in the King's local Co-op

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OUT AND ABOUT NEAR WINDSOR CASTLE

HE WAS IN A THAT BEHEADED KEN BIGLEY

+5 View gallery

23:42, 17 Oct 2026, updated 12:46, 18 Oct 2026
By GABRIEL MILLARD-CLOTHIER, POLITICAL REPORTER and ABUL TAHER

I had a productive meeting in Parliament with Darren Harris, the Chair of the Suffolk Police Federation. We talked about the pressures on local police forces and the lack of proper wellbeing support. And I emphasised the importance of being transparent with residents when incidents occur.



Taxpayers are funding benefits for men with multiple wives. The Government recognises overseas marriages for welfare purposes, including polygamous – and even incestuous – relationships which would be illegal in Britain. This is a shocking waste of public money, and I am co-sponsoring a Bill to put a stop to it.

Listening to you

Last week, I asked you about the soaring cost of welfare. More than three quarters of you believe Britain's benefits bill is too high and want fundamental reform. More than four-fifths support the Conservatives' plan to limit the amount of time people who are fit to work can claim the full rate of benefits – and introduce a 'Back to Work' card which will stop benefits being spent on gambling, tobacco, or alcohol.



Regular readers know I have fought hard for residents dependent on heating oil since I was elected. Now, as winter approaches, the cost of heating oil has increased to over £1.15 per litre, up from 84p per litre in July. [Please take two minutes to fill in my latest survey and let me know how the heating oil crisis affects you.](#)

Out and about in Suffolk

It takes something special to run a business. All our prosperity depends on the risk-takers who create jobs and generate growth. Ahead of next week's Budget, [I chaired a meeting of my regular business forum](#), and I sat down with Paul Simon from Suffolk Chamber of Commerce. I listened to their concerns about rising energy bills, higher taxes, and increasing employment costs. These meetings are a useful chance to hear directly from local employers and discuss what I can do to support them. Let me know at nick@nicktimothy.com if you would like to get involved.



There are more opportunities to get active and try something new in West Suffolk. [I recently visited Haverhill Padel Club](#) to meet Callum, who set it up with his brother and dad this May. There are only five padel clubs in Suffolk, most in Ipswich, but I know Callum is keen to expand elsewhere in the west of the county. The club is open from 7am to 10pm, seven days a week, and it works with local schools to give young people a chance to play.



It was lovely to stop at The Courtyard Café & Bar in Haverhill, which is tucked away at the New Croft. The Courtyard is open to all – and I promise you won't get a warmer welcome than Theresa's. If you are nearby, pop in and show them your support.



And I was proud to speak at the launch of the new Upper Stour Valley branch of the West Suffolk Conservatives, which met for the first time in Little Thurlow. The new branch is another sign of my party's recovery under the leadership of Kemi Badenoch. If you live in the Bradleys, the Thurlows or Little or Great Wrattling and you want to get involved – or if you live elsewhere and would like a branch of the party to open near you – please write to me at nick@nicktimothy.com

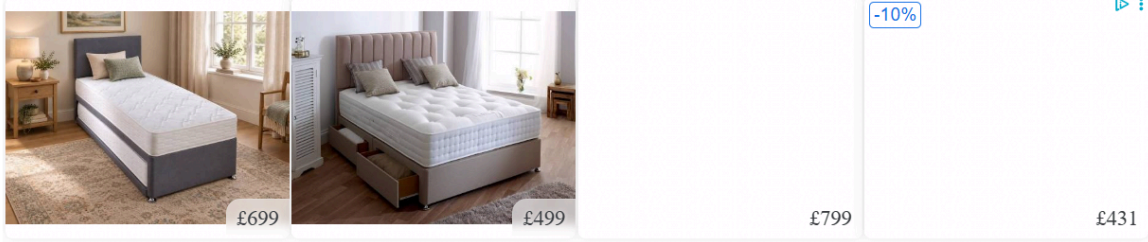


In the media

Labour's prisons crisis continues to get worse. This week my research exposed how prison bosses believe the early release scheme has been so rushed that some criminals will be let out by mistake. As I told [*The Sun*](#), Labour designed every aspect of this scheme, and their incompetence is putting the public at risk.

But ministers are more interested in playing identity politics than finding solutions to this crisis. The [*Daily Mail*](#) covered my work to expose the Government for spending almost £2 million per year on finding ways to claim prisons are racist. The Ministry of Justice employs twenty DEI staff to study "diversity" in jail and probation. This is money that could have been spent on building new prison places, so we can keep more offenders behind bars.

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EXCLUSIVE What prison crisis? £2million a year is wasted on 'finding ways to say jails are racist' - as thousands of criminals are let out due to lack of space

By **DAVID BARRETT**, HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

PUBLISHED: 22:17, 20 October 2026 | UPDATED: 22:59, 20 October 2026

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A **Tory** frontbencher has blasted the Ministry of Justice for spending almost £2million a year on 'finding ways to claim prisons are racist'.

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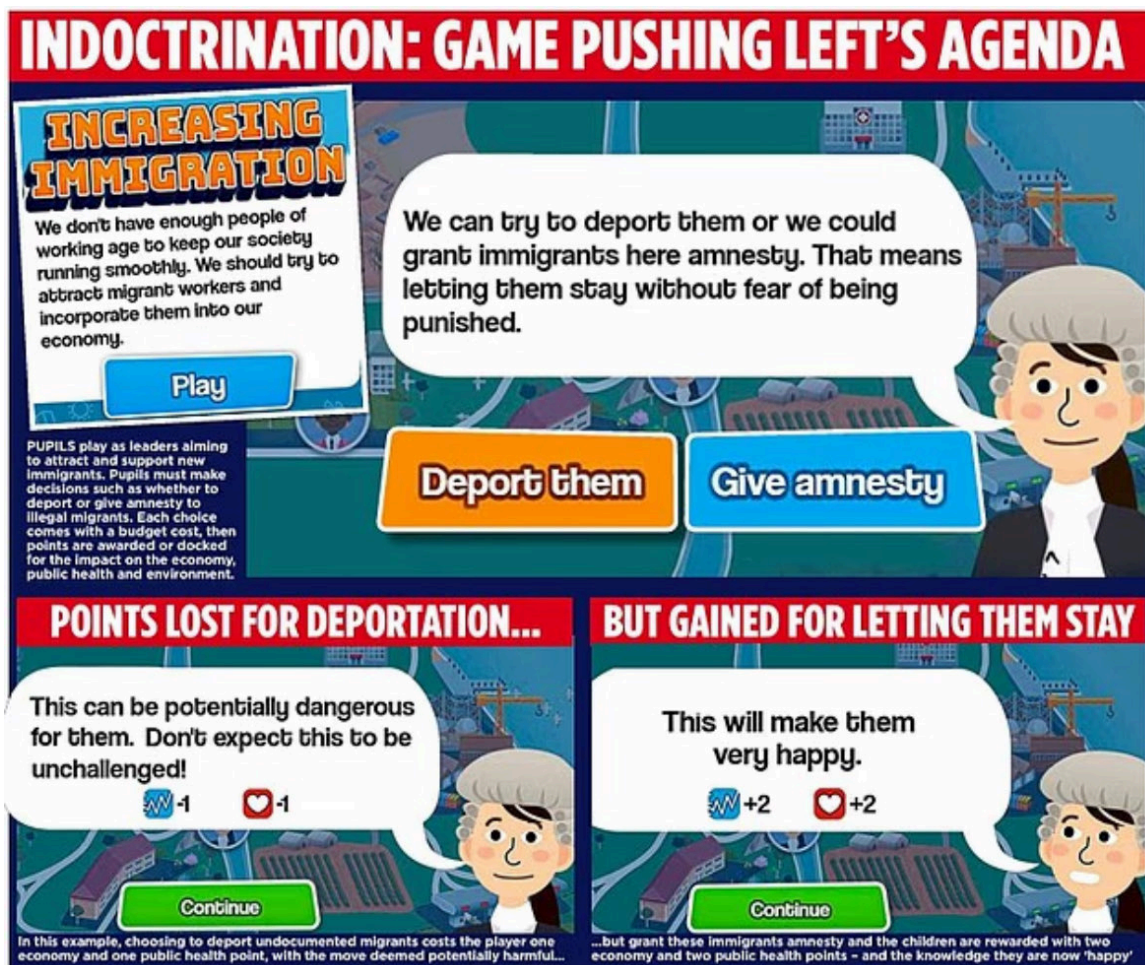
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This chaos was completely avoidable. As I said in *The Telegraph*, Labour has utterly failed to make proper use of the empty cells at its disposal. I shared my research with the paper that showed there are more than four thousand empty places in prisons, and some cells are expected to remain empty for eight years.

Scrutinising the Government

The BBC's Royal Charter will soon be up for renewal. Ministers must hold it to its founding mission, to inform, to educate, and to entertain. This week, the BBC was exposed for indoctrinating children with left-wing propaganda. In a game for kids, players lose points for deporting illegal migrants – but let them stay and a lawyer says it will make them “very happy.” Illegal immigrants must be deported – and the BBC must take the game down.



Rasib Ghaffar, an immigration judge, has been caught engaging in flagrant corruption. He conspired with other lawyers to steal nearly £2 million from taxpayers through legal aid fraud. This why the next Conservative Government will abolish the immigration tribunal, an put decisions about immigration and deportations back in the hands of ministers – not liberal lawyers and judges.

I called on Angela Rayner to publish the legal advice which – she claims – forced her to call off her local government reorganisation programme, which would have replaced Suffolk's six local councils with three new unitary authorities. She has chosen to keep the advice secret. This lack of clarity has real consequences for residents, who do not know which local authority will deliver essential services – including buses, special educational needs provision, and social care.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Question for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

UIN 29618, tabled on 14 September 2026

Question



Nick Timothy

Conservative

West Suffolk

 Commons

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will publish legal advice she has received in connection with the local government reorganisation programme.

Surgeries and support

If you need any help at all you can reach me at nick.timothy.mp@parliament.uk

And if you know anyone who you think might welcome receiving this email, please do forward this onto them and mention that they can sign up by writing to nick@nicktimothy.com

Very best wishes

Nick Timothy
MP for West Suffolk

**PS Please click here to sign my
petition to STOP the Forest City if
you have not already
done so. Many thanks**

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Nick Timothy

Member of Parliament for West Suffolk

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