



**Matthew Barber**  
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for Thames Valley

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The Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC  
Lord Chancellor  
Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ

29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Lord Chancellor,

**Hayden Brown**

You may be aware of the horrific case of two Thames Valley Police Officers who were struck by a car in September 2018. Both officers, PC Lam and PC Dorman were seriously injured, Tom Dorman having to have his leg amputated as a result.

In December of last year the driver, who was shown to be at almost twice the drink drive limit, was sentenced to five years for dangerous driving. Many felt at the time that this sentence was wholly inadequate given the details of the offence and the harm caused as a result. It was nevertheless the maximum sentence that could have been given for this particular charge.

As a result Tom Dorman, now Sgt Dorman, has been campaigning for a change in the sentencing guidelines to strengthen the powers of the courts when sentencing those who cause serious injury or death whilst driving. The details of this and many other tragic cases convince me of the need for such changes.

What is more worry in this case is that the convicted man, Hayden Brown, has been moved to an open prison after serving just ten months of his sixty month sentence and will now be eligible for release under temporary licence (ROTL).

As we have discussed before, I am a great supporter of the appropriate use of ROTL and the Thames Valley OPCC has supported a number of schemes to reduce reoffending. However, punishment must also remain a key part of the prison system alongside rehabilitation. Given the circumstances of the case, where an individual's reckless behaviour very nearly cost the lives of two on-duty police officers and resulted in permanent disability for one of them it seems incredible that the offender should serve less than one fifth of their sentence in a closed prison.

I would ask you to use your good offices to look into this case, not just because of the obvious feeling of injustice that many feel as a result of this particularly egregious instance but as an example of the wider concerns that many have about the effectiveness of our criminal justice system.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Barber  
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley