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What I asked the Prime Minister during PMQs

Dear Resident

More than 30,000 people across the country, including many here in West Suffolk, were caught up in the infected blood scandal after being treated with contaminated products in the 1970s and 1980s. The last Conservative government promised full compensation for the victims after a public inquiry found the authorities covered up the scale of the problem.



However, this Government's regulations for the compensation scheme move the goalposts for victims — introducing new exclusions, treating victims inconsistently and reducing some previously-agreed awards. On Wednesday, I challenged the Prime Minister about it. As you can see by clicking [here](#), he refused to listen.

Your voice in Parliament

On Tuesday, I gave a speech in the House of Commons on the Government's Schools Bill. Luddites in the Education Department are taking a hammer to the machinery that has made English schools the best in the West. If you would like to watch my speech, please click on the YouTube icon below.



As Nick Timothy MP said on 18 March 2025, the Government's new education legislation will lower the quality of education for children from working families.

On Monday I asked the Justice Minister, Sir Nicholas Dakin MP, about the sentencing guidelines that treat racial and religious minorities preferentially — and are due to come into effect on 1 April. I also raised the Equal Treatment Bench Book, which says, “to treat some persons equally, we must treat them differently”. Shamefully, as you can see by clicking [here](#), he abdicated responsibility.

Out and about locally

I was joined recently in **Newmarket** by Shadow DEFRA minister Dr Neil Hudson MP at a roundtable to listen to local representatives of horseracing’s breeding and transportation sectors (Dr Hudson is pictured with me at right in the top left and right photos below). To read more about the event, please click [here](#). The sport needs more support from government and there were strong calls for the Government to cancel tax rises on rural businesses.



Dr Hudson also joined me for a visit to **Newmarket Equine Hospital**, which is just across the constituency boundary. A big thank you to managing director David Dugdale for taking the time to show us around the clinic and facilities (see pictures below).



In the press

The *East Anglia Daily Times* covered my recent roundtable meeting with

more than 20 local business at the EpiCentre in **Haverhill**. To read the article please click below.

West Suffolk MP Nick Timothy meets business leaders

7 HRS AGO BUSINESS



Businesses met with Nick Timothy, MP for West Suffolk *(Image: Supplied)*

This was a very welcome chance to listen to the owners and managers of firms here in West Suffolk. The roundtable was also the focus of my column, published yesterday in the local press (see a clipping below).

Westminster Life



Nick Timothy
MP for West Suffolk

Will Labour help businesses?

Since being elected, I have welcomed the chance to visit as many West Suffolk firms as I can. So it was brilliant to be able to sit down and listen to more than 20 local business leaders on March 7.

A wide array of businesses were represented, from a luxury hotel to a plastics manufacturer which has had a pioneering role in its sector.

We were lucky enough to have the head of the one of the last remaining family-controlled British shipping companies, alongside local pub landlords, farmers and manufacturers. We were also joined by the representatives of the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and the Eastern Powerhouse.

What emerged from our discussion was the seriousness with which businesses view the present environment. One manager said the situation was the very worst he had ever experienced.

The wider context is that Britain's existing economic model is bust. Like



in many other Western countries, growth is sluggish, and wages stagnant. Our birth rate is declining, and immigration is rocketing. Investment is low and productivity is poor. We have trade and budget deficits and a large stock of debt.

Many of those present felt that Labour's French-style labour laws will make it riskier and more expensive for businesses to hire. Others felt the increase in employer

National Insurance Contributions would hold back wages, lead to job losses and push up costs.

Meanwhile, farmers are having to compete on an uneven playing field. They face an unreasonable burden of regulation that many overseas competitors, who also send food to British supermarkets, do not have to face.

As well as coping with the immoral family farms tax, too many farmers

are now forced to depend on sources of income not related to agriculture. They should be able to make a decent living growing British food. This benefits us all; food security is national security.

Ministers should support firms with incentives for training, research, plant and equipment, and with tax, regulation and planning policies that are favourable to investment, growth and expansion.

One 'systemic challenge' raised was prohibitive business rates. Others felt that incentives such as Research and Development (or R&D) tax credits were outdated. Although worth billions of pounds per year, businesses feel hamstrung because the Treasury makes it so difficult, and bureaucratically challenging, to make a claim.

Overburdensome red tape is now matched by reckless spending. In their manifesto Labour said they would increase spending by £9.5 billion a year. Yet, the Budget increased it by £76 billion a year —

eight times more.

This is what is behind the tax rises. And what do we get in return? Transport investment spending is being reduced by 3.1 per cent. That means fewer new roads and railway upgrades and poorer connectivity.

Here in Suffolk, we are crying out for key infrastructure improvements — such as the dualling of the Newmarket to Cambridge train line, the Fiveways bypass, the Ely and Haughley junction upgrade, and a rail link between Haverhill and Cambridge, not least so we can get freight off our overburdened roads and onto railways.

This is also important so residents and commuters can get quickly, smoothly and safely to their destinations.

We need a government that can be trusted to help support growth, boost food security and back enterprise.

Yet increasingly, West Suffolk's businesses feel they are being left out in the cold. This needs to change, and quickly.

The local media reported the fact that I sent a [detailed submission](#) to West Suffolk District Council to make the case for a new relief road and other traffic improvements in **Mildenhall** as the application for construction of 1,000 more houses is considered. I have also made the case for this to Suffolk County Council. A relief road and more investment are crucial to protect quality of life, keep vehicles moving and improve safety. If you would like to read my submission, please click [here](#).

Relief road calls for Mildenhall West Row Road homes scheme

7 HRS AGO

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL



Nick Timothy has renewed his calls for a relief road to be included in the scheme (*Image: Google Earth/Newsquest*)

My visit to **Breckland School** in **Brandon** also received local press coverage. If you would like to read the article, please click on the icon below.

MP Nick Timothy visits Breckland School in Brandon

13TH MARCH EDUCATION LOCAL GOVERNMENT BRANDON SUFFOLK



West Suffolk MP, Nick Timothy, visited Breckland School in Brandon (Image: Supplied)

Scrutinising the Government

During oral energy questions this week, I asked the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, Michael Shanks, to guarantee that our carbon price will remain lower than the European price for the remainder of this Parliament.



This would add hundreds of pounds to families' bills and decimate British industry. He refused to repeat Labour's promise to cut energy bills by £300 by the end of the Parliament. To view the question, and the minister's response, please click on the YouTube icon below.



On 18 March 2025, Nick Timothy MP spoke from the Opposition despatch box in the House of Commons. He said the Government is planning to potentially triple the carbon price to European levels.

In a series of parliamentary questions ([here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)), I asked the Government to give businesses more clarity on new regulations which oblige producers of products to bear the entire cost of recycling the packaging they place on the market. These new rules have the potential to seriously harm businesses in the East of England — with an impact on both turnover and prices — yet ministers still have not provided the details businesses need.



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 enjoy this email, please do forward this onto them and mention that they can sign up by writing to office@westsuffolkconservatives.com

Best wishes



Nick Timothy
Member of Parliament for West Suffolk



Published and promoted by Nick Timothy, all at
The Conservative Office, Moulton Road, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8DY

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Conservative Office, Moulton Road, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 8DY

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