



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### Injured carpenter appeals for help to find hit and run driver after police lose accident report

A man who was injured in a hit and run accident in Hackney Wick is appealing for help to find the driver of the car which hit him after police apparently lost their records.

Tibor Szoke is a carpenter from Slovakia who now lives in Forest Gate. Earlier this year, on 17<sup>th</sup> June, he was riding his motorbike along Rothbury Road in Hackney Wick when a car coming towards him suddenly crossed his path to turn right down Hepscott Road. Mr. Szoke was knocked off his motorbike, seriously injuring his right leg and arm. The driver got out of his car, and ran off.

Police were called to the scene, but the London Traffic Prosecution Service Unit in Sidcup can find no record of their report. Without the report, there is no evidence of what happened and no way of tracing the driver.

Mr. Szoke, who had just started a job as a flooring specialist, has been unable to return to work since the accident. He has wires in his elbow, and is awaiting an operation on the torn ligaments in his knee. He does not know when, or even if, he will be able to work again. He is not eligible for benefits because he has not been working in this country long enough.

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Mr. Szoke is being represented by Jo Chapman, a partner at Bolt Burdon Kemp, personal injury specialist solicitors in Islington.

"We desperately need witnesses to tell us what happened," she said. "We believe there was at least one witness who took down the car's number, but without the police report, we've no way of finding them. Mr. Szoke badly needs help, and anyone who was in the area at the time may have useful information."

"I came to England to live a new life and it all changed in a moment," said Mr. Szoke. "My family are sending me money and I've been living off my savings. I feel 10 years older, I can't work at the job I'm good at, and the future looks bleak."

"The London Traffic Prosecution Service at Sidcup, South London, was set up a year ago to deal with all London's traffic offences" added Jo Chapman. "It was intended to produce among other things a better service for victims and witnesses but has utterly failed Mr Szoke. How the police cannot find an accident report seven months after an accident seems beyond belief. If anyone who saw anything could contact me, I'd be very grateful."

Jo Chapman can be contacted on 020 7288 4700, or email [jochapman@boltburdonkemp.co.uk](mailto:jochapman@boltburdonkemp.co.uk)

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