

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

9th January 2017

New Commitment

RE: ARTHRITIS EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of employment support for people with Arthritis.

Work is really important for ensuring that people with Arthritis are able to lead fulfilling lives. I can assure you that as part of the Government's Green Paper on work, health and disability, Ministers are exploring ways to improve support for people with conditions such as Arthritis to find and remain in work. Musculoskeletal conditions are one of the two key areas, along with mental health, which the Green Paper is placing a specific focus on.

For example, the Government is looking at new ways of providing musculoskeletal care services, including physiotherapy, and providing earlier access to support to reduce work absence and prevent deterioration. It is also important to work more closely with employers to raise awareness of issues around disabilities and health conditions, and to share best practice. The Government's Disability Confident campaign has done great work in this area in recent years, and a new Disability Confident Business Leaders Group was announced in the Green Paper to work alongside Ministers and officials to increase employer engagement around disabled employment; a move I have long supported.

The Government is also expanding the Access to Work scheme to help more disabled people start or remain in work. It was announced in the last Spending Review that Access to Work will receive a real-terms increase in resources, starting in 2016-17. This enables increased marketing of the scheme to raise awareness among those who could benefit from it. The new Personal Support Package announced in the Green Paper will also mean that people with health conditions such as Arthritis will be able to receive employment support which is more tailored to their specific individual needs.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

with set notes

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE