

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

20th February 2018

Dear Constituent,

RE: WINTER PRESSURES IN THE NHS AND FUNDING.

Thank you for contacting me in respect of your concerns about winter pressures in the NHS and funding.

I share your concerns about the number of challenges facing the health service this year. Winter is always a difficult time of year for health services across the world, and I know that this year is no exception.

It was incredibly unfortunate that NHS England had to postpone non-urgent operations in January. I understand that this emergency action was taken by the NHS National Emergency Pressures Panel, following sustained pressure on the NHS over Christmas. No urgent, or cancer-related operations have been deferred, and I believe the panel was right to give patients significant notice of deferral, rather than cancelling operations with only a few hours' notice, as happened in previous years. While this has undoubtedly caused difficulty this winter, I believe it is important to note that these deferrals applied to around 13 percent of hospital beds dealing with elective patients.

However, I hope you are encouraged to hear that the Government has worked closely with the NHS to prepare for winter. Winter preparations began earlier than ever before: in the Spring Budget, the Chancellor pledged an additional £100 million investment to support A&E departments throughout the country; and in December, the Government invested a further £337 million to support the NHS throughout the winter. This money has, amongst other achievements, helped the NHS open over 1,000 more acute hospital beds since the end of November, and install GP streaming services in 99 percent of A&E departments.

In the local context, in December, Kettering General Hospital was given £2.6 million extra by the Chancellor to help with winter demands – additional funding that I, along with my Northamptonshire colleagues, campaigned for.

I am pleased to say that, despite very challenging circumstances, these preparations have been of great help to the health service, whose staff have offered lifesaving, compassionate care at the hardest time of the year. I would like to echo Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS England's National Medical Director, and say that this winter has seen some of the best, and most thorough, preparations on record, and I would also pay tribute to all NHS staff for the remarkable work they do.



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 best wishes,

Tom

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**