

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

20<sup>th</sup> March 2018

*Dear Constituent,*

**RE: THE OCCUPATION OF WESTERN SAHARA.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of Western Sahara.

I understand the UK's position on Western Sahara is consistent and long-standing. The Government considers the final status of Western Sahara as undetermined, and supports UN-led efforts to reach a lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

The UK considers Morocco to be the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, which remains on the UN list of non-self-governing territories. I would like to point out that the conduct of economic activities by Morocco in Western Sahara is not in itself illegal. As de facto administering power, in order to comply with international law, Morocco must ensure that economic activities under its administration are conducted to the benefit, and in the interests, of the people of Western Sahara. Such economic activities include the exploitation of natural resources.

The UK encourages both sides to cooperate with the United Nations process to reach a mutually acceptable solution that provides for the self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

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**