

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

12<sup>th</sup> April 2018

*Dear Constituent,*

**RE: DIABETES AND FOOD LABELLING.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of food labelling and the campaign by Diabetes UK.

I would like to commend the work done by Diabetes UK. For many years this charity has campaigned to raise awareness of the symptoms and causes of diabetes, which has been of immense value to those with diabetes, who often need support and guidance in managing their condition.

As I understand it, the Government has not had any recent discussions with the food and drinks industry about food labelling on pre-packaged foods or food sold in restaurants, cafes or takeaways. There are already mandatory requirements for nutrient labels on pre-packaged foods, and I am happy to say that the food and drink industry itself is making significant progress to improve food labels, and introduce clear nutritional labels on the front of packages. So far, around two-thirds of pre-packaged food and drinks on the market have front of pack nutritional labels, and around a quarter of food consumed outside the home have calorie labels at the point of sale, such as cafe menus.

I know that the Government has made no central assessment of the merits of introducing mandatory dietary guidelines or labels on fast food packaging, however once the United Kingdom leaves the European Union, we will have greater flexibility over what information should be presented on packaged food, and how it should be displayed. I believe the current growth of nutritional labels on food has been a great success, and I hope you are pleased to know that the Government has suggested the possibility of introducing clearer, visual labels, such as teaspoons of sugar, to help people make healthy choices in their shopping.

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**