

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

29<sup>th</sup> May 2018

*Jew Castleden*

**RE: MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of Macmillan Cancer Support and improving outcomes for cancer sufferers. I am always pleased to show my support for this dedicated cancer charity.

I can assure you improving outcomes and experiences for cancer sufferers is a major priority for the Government. I am encouraged that UK cancer survival rates have never been higher; however, there is still more to be done.

I would like to assure you that the NHS is making every effort to tackle cancers which affect all groups of people, regardless of gender. I commend the great efforts which have been made to raise awareness of, and tackle, cancers which affect men and boys. The NHS is working hard to improve services for teenagers and young adults in line with the recommendations set out in the independent Cancer Taskforce report, recognising the unique medical arrangements needed by young people with cancer. The National Institute for Cancer Research funds a wide range of research on cancer, including male cancers, such as prostate cancer, and spent £142 million on cancer research in 2015/16.

The Government is working with the NHS, charities and patient groups to deliver the Cancer Strategy developed by the independent Cancer Taskforce. It has committed to ensuring that by 2020, everyone urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer will receive either a definitive diagnosis, or the all-clear, within four weeks. The Government is supporting this by investing up to £300 million a year by 2020 to increase diagnostic capacity. NHS England has also announced a £130 million fund to modernise radiotherapy across England. Furthermore, the Government invested over £1.2 billion to the Cancer Drugs Fund which has helped over 95,000 people to access the life-extending drugs they need.

Early diagnosis of cancer is key and that is why the Government has run a series of Be Clear on Cancer campaigns in order to raise public awareness of the symptoms of cancer.

I am pleased to note that the Government is working closely with experts in this field to fulfil its ambition of achieving world-class cancer outcomes. Health Education England is developing a cancer workforce strategy, in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, among others, to ensure that all cancer patients receive

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access to specialist nursing staff throughout the course of their treatment and recovery. This workforce plan includes a significant increase in the diagnostic workforce, such as the recruitment of radiologists and endoscopists, who will be instrumental in ensuring the NHS meets its ambitions to offer timely and accurate diagnoses to suspected cancer patients.

I support the Government's commitment to increase NHS spending in England by a minimum of £8 billion in real terms over the next five years, which will enable the NHS to fund its own plan for the future, the Five Year Forward View. This will also ensure that by 2020, everyone will be able to access GP services at evenings and weekends.

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 PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**