

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

14<sup>th</sup> June 2018

*Dear Crispian,*

**RE: NHS MANDATE AND WAITING TIMES.**

Thank you for contacting me recently about the NHS mandate and waiting time targets for the coming year; I read your comments with great interest.

As our population ages, demand for the NHS continues to rise. We owe our NHS staff a great deal of gratitude for their dedication and compassion. I would like to assure you that the Government is taking clear steps to support the NHS and ensure it offers the world's best healthcare.

I appreciate your concerns about waiting times in the NHS. Many NHS trusts have faced difficulty in meeting their waiting time targets as a result of acute challenges this winter. The NHS sets exceptionally high waiting time standards and the Government works with bodies like NHS Improvement to make sure they are delivered throughout the health service. The NHS mandate has set clear goals for the health service and I am confident that they will be achieved.

I should also add that, not only is the Government increasing NHS investment by over £8 billion this Parliament, it is also making progress on reforms which will reduce waiting times, and alleviate pressures on the NHS. Through the £3.6 billion investment in the Better Care Fund, and the NHS's continuing implementation of its own plan for the future, the Five Year Forward View, I believe the proper integration of health and social care over the next three years will be of huge benefit to the NHS and patients alike. Excellent progress is being made. Compared to five years ago, nearly half a million more people are treated within 18 weeks of referral and I am happy to say that safety in the NHS continues to improve.

I believe this mandate will uphold the founding ideals of the NHS as it reaches its 70th anniversary, and provide the health service with the resources and guidance to face the challenges of today's ongoing social, demographic, and technological change.

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**