

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

9th July 2018

Jew Constituent,

RE: FOOD POVERTY AND FOOD BANKS.

Thank you for contacting me recently about food poverty; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

Firstly, I agree with you that this is a serious issue, with some of the country's poorest families struggling to afford to feed themselves. It is vital that we do everything possible to help people with the cost of living.

Ministers are working hard to improve competition to help producers and retailers offer the best prices. There are a range of policies to promote a growing, sustainable food and farming sector, and keep prices down. The Government is also working to promote transparency and openness in global markets.

Food banks provide an incredibly valuable service, and I would like to pay tribute to the hardworking volunteers involved. People visit them for a variety of reasons, and it is, of course, highly undesirable that anybody should be in a position where they feel the need to do so.

The welfare system supports millions of people who are on low incomes or unemployed, so that nobody has to struggle to meet their basic needs, but I passionately believe that the surest route out of poverty is work. I am delighted that the Government is dedicated to building an economy that works for everyone, and has overseen falls in unemployment, record numbers of jobs, pay cheques rising faster than inflation, and significant income tax cuts, so that working people keep more of what they earn.

I look forward to this record continuing, and especially welcome the creation of a National Living Wage that is giving two and a half million people a direct pay rise, with those previously on the Minimum Wage seeing their pay rise by over a third.

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