

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

28th June 2018

Jean Conditment,
RE: LUNG DISEASE.

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

There are currently no plans to set up a task force on lung health. However, I know that the Government has instructed NHS England to achieve a significant reduction in avoidable deaths by 2020. Reducing premature mortality rates among patients with lung disease will play an important part in this. There are a range of initiatives being taken forward that will support reducing mortality rates amongst patients with lung disease.

Early diagnosis of lung disease is important, as timely treatment can help slow down its progression. In March 2016, the NHS concluded a national pilot programme which aimed to improve speed and accuracy in diagnosis in patients experiencing the symptom of breathlessness, test new models of care in various settings and improve the outcome of patients experiencing breathlessness. This pilot was noted for its success, and was followed by a 'Be Clear on Cancer' campaign to raise awareness of respiratory problems, including breathlessness or a persistent cough, which can be a symptom of lung disease. This will help support increased early identification and diagnosis of patients suffering from possible lung disease.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has recently updated its advice on the management of acute and chronic breathlessness, including the identification of patients who may require emergency admission.

I know that NHS England's National Clinical Director for Respiratory Disease, Professor Mike Morgan, continues to work on improving outcomes for lung disease patients with charities, such as the British Lung Foundation. I understand that work is also being carried out on how to share best practice in order to address variation in care.

NHS England also funds the Respiratory Futures Programme, which is a resource to support innovation and sharing of best practice on respiratory conditions. You may be pleased to know that the National Institute for Health Research funds significant research into lung disease; investment in respiratory disease research has increased by over two-thirds, from £15.7 million in 2009/10, to £26.7 million in 2015/16; and this year will see a review of guidelines on the treatment of asthma.

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

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE