



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th July 2018

Jew Constituents,

RE: MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE (MND).

Thank you for contacting me recently about support for people with motor neurone disease (MND); your comments upon which I read with great interest.

I understand that MND is a devastating disease which can be difficult to diagnose. In February 2016, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published new guidelines on the assessment and management of MND. This sets out the signs and symptoms of the disease, and recommends that robust pathways are in place to inform healthcare professionals about MND, and local referral arrangements. NICE is clear that patients suspected of having MND should be referred without delay. The Royal College of GPs (RCGP) and the MND Association have also worked together to produce a 'Red Flag Tool' which sets out key signs of MND to help GPs to identify suspected cases and ensure prompt referral.

All services for people with MND should be commissioned in line with NHS England's neurosciences service specification which sets out what providers must have in place to deliver high quality specialised neurological care. MND care is part of the NHS's specialised services. You may like to know that the budget for these services has increased more rapidly than other parts of the NHS, to £16.6 billion for the year 2017/18.

NHS England commission 'augmentative and alternative communication' (AAC) aids. AAC aids are used to restore communication for people who cannot communicate using speech and can help improve the quality of life for patients with MND. Before April 2013, there was no national commissioning of AAC services or an agreed definition of what AAC services should provide, which resulted in variable patient access. This works alongside NHS England's existing complex disability equipment service, which provides advanced wheelchair and seating services for patients with profound disabilities, and/or an unstable medical condition.

The Government's National Institute for Health Research has increased spending on neurological conditions from £29.9 million in 2010/11 to £46.7 million in 2014/15.

I also recognise the valuable contribution made by carers of people with MND, many of whom spend a significant proportion of their life providing support to family members, friends and neighbours. I agree that carers must receive the right support to help them carry out their caring roles and a new cross-Government National Carers Strategy is being introduced to look at what more can be done to support existing and future carers.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**