

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

12th July 2018

Jew Constituent,

RE: ROYAL COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE VISION 2020.

Thank you for contacting me recently about the Royal College of Emergency Medicine's recent report, Vision 2020; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

I value the work of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM), and I have read their recent report with interest and concern. It highlights many challenges facing emergency medicine today, and I hope I can assure you that the Government and the NHS are making serious efforts to address them.

The issues raised by the RCEM have been sharpened by the pressures faced by the NHS this winter. The particularly lengthy period of cold weather, as well as high levels of flu, led to significantly high demand for NHS services. I acknowledge that there were many difficulties, and I am sorry to note that A&E waiting time targets were missed in many areas. However, I do believe the NHS was well prepared. The Government invested £1 billion for social care in 2017, and £437 million for the NHS, which significantly reduced delayed transfers of care between the NHS and the care system, and GP services were installed in nearly every A&E department in the country.

I hope you are encouraged to know that the Government and the NHS work closely with the RCEM, and pay careful attention to its recommendations. In 2017, the RCEM worked in partnership with the NHS and Health Education England to devise a workforce plan for emergency medicine. Together, they are implementing a new scheme in 2018 to improve training and staffing in emergency medicine, and provide investment to trusts with poorly performing emergency departments.

I appreciate that more needs to be done. However, I hope this assures you that the Government continues to invest in the NHS, and is helping to build a health service which offers world-class care for all. This is a position reinforced by the Government's recent announcement regarding the long-term funding of the NHS. In relation to this, I was pleased to hear of the Government's intention to provide the NHS with an additional £20.5 billion by 2023/24, a move which will further address the issues raised in the RCEM report.

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

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE