

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

12th November 2018

New Constituent,

RE: NATIONAL POLLINATOR STRATEGY.

Thank you for contacting me recently about the *National Pollinator Strategy* and measures to protect bees; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

I entirely agree with you that bees and other pollinators play an essential role in our food production and are vital to the survival of our wild plant populations. There are 1,500 species of insect pollinator in the UK, and I welcome work over the last few years to protect them. These efforts have been brought together in the *National Pollinator Strategy*.

The strategy lays out plans to improve our understanding of the status and role of pollinators, increase the area of habitat for pollinators, raise awareness of their importance, and safeguard bee health. It also sets out new work to be done immediately, building on longer-term initiatives. These include conserving and creating good quality wild flower meadows, and minimising risks from pesticides. The Government is working with a range of public, private sector, and charitable bodies to create bee and insect friendly habitats.

Since the strategy was launched there has been encouraging progress on its aims to make farms, towns, cities, and the countryside, better places for our bees and pollinators. Ministers continue to work with partners, such as Friends of the Earth, British Beekeepers' Association, and Kew, to deliver it.

Ministers have also introduced the first ever *Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife* package, which makes more funding available to farmers and landowners who take steps to protect pollinators. In its first year of operation, over half of the mid-tier applications to the *Countryside Stewardship Scheme*, which channels these payments, included this package, so I am confident it will make a real difference.

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