

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st November 2018

John Constable

RE: CANCER.

Thank you for contacting me recently about improving outcomes for cancer sufferers; I can assure you that this is a major priority for the Government and I am sorry I was unable to attend Macmillan's recent Coffee Morning in Parliament. I am encouraged, however, that UK cancer survival rates have never been higher; however, there is still more to be done.

I would like to assure you that the NHS is making every effort to tackle cancers which affect all groups of people, regardless of gender. I commend the great efforts which have been made to raise awareness of, and tackle cancers, which affect men and boys. The NHS is working hard to improve services for teenagers and young adults in line with the recommendations set out in the independent Cancer Taskforce Report, recognising the unique medical arrangements needed by young people with cancer. That is why I am pleased that over £882 million in Government funding has been spent on cancer research across the UK since 2010.

The Government is working with the NHS, charities, and patient groups to deliver the Cancer Strategy developed by the independent Cancer Taskforce. It has committed to ensuring that by 2020, everyone urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer will receive either a definitive diagnosis, or the all-clear within four weeks. The Government is supporting this by investing up to £300 million a year by 2020 to increase diagnostic capacity. NHS England has also announced a £130 million fund to modernise radiotherapy across England. Furthermore, the Government invested over £1.2 billion in the Cancer Drugs Fund which has helped over 95,000 people to access the life-extending drugs they need.

Early diagnosis of cancer is key and that is why earlier cancer diagnosis is at the heart of the new long-term NHS plan. Over the next ten years, the way cancer is screened and diagnosed will be overhauled to improve early diagnosis and ensure tens of thousands more people survive for longer after their diagnosis. Screening programmes will include easier and more effective tests, and Rapid Diagnostic Centres will be rolled out.



I am pleased that Ministers are working closely with experts to achieve world-class cancer outcomes. Health Education England is developing a Cancer Workforce Strategy, in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, among others, to ensure that all cancer patients receive access to specialist nursing staff throughout the course of their treatment and recovery. This workforce plan includes a significant increase in the diagnostic workforce, such as the recruitment of radiologists and endoscopists, who will be instrumental in ensuring the NHS meets its ambitions to offer timely and accurate diagnoses to suspected cancer patients.

I hope you join me in welcoming the announcement of an additional £20 billion investment in the NHS by 2023/24. This will significantly support its efforts to improve cancer services, in particular.

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**