

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

22nd November 2018

Dear Constituent,

RE: MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS.

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

With more than 100,000 people across the UK diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, please let me assure you that helping those suffering from this condition to lead as normal lives as possible remains a key commitment of the NHS.

As I understand it, diagnosis in the early stages of multiple sclerosis can be difficult, with some of the symptoms often similar to other conditions. I am, therefore, pleased that the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has produced guidelines to assist clinicians in diagnosing the condition. This guidance also provides clinicians with best practice for treating the many possible symptoms of multiple sclerosis, including mobility problems and fatigue.

I fully appreciate that those suffering from multiple sclerosis may also have specific long-term social care needs. That is why I am glad that £9.4 billion in dedicated funding has been made available for adult social care through to 2020. Better integration between health and social care provision, creating genuinely people-centred coordinated care, is also required, and I look forward to this being explored in a forthcoming Green Paper, expected later in the autumn.

I am encouraged that almost £288 million has been spent on research into neurological conditions, including multiple sclerosis, since 2010, through the publicly-funded National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). With the NIHR's annual spending on neurological conditions up by more than £22 million since 2010, I remain hopeful that this funding will help discover new ways to improve the lives of those diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

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