

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

26<sup>th</sup> November 2018

*Your Constituent,*

**RE: RACEHORSE WELFARE AND SAFETY.**

Thank you for contacting me recently about the safety and welfare of horses during races; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) is the independent body responsible for regulating the sport of horseracing. It works closely with animal charities, such as the RSPCA and World Horse Welfare, to ensure that the highest of standards are upheld. As a consequence, Britain is regarded as having one of the best regulated racing environments in the world. I am not aware of any current plans to replace the BHA's welfare role with a new body.

It is always upsetting to hear about the death of a horse during a race, but I have been assured that the BHA has a number of policies to ensure that racing is as safe as possible for horses. These include not licencing any racecourse in the UK which is not welfare approved, ensuring all races have veterinary surgeons on hand to administer treatment, and investigating any course showing an increase in fatalities. I am encouraged that in the last 20 years, horse fatalities during races have fallen by a third, to 0.2 percent of runners.

I understand your concern about life after racing for these horses. The Retraining of Racehorses is the official charity dealing with the welfare of retired racehorses. It raises funds through regulatory and licence fees from racing, as well as from donations. It runs a nationwide programme to find new homes and roles for these horses, including in other recreational activities.

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**