

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

26th November 2018

Jean Constant

RE: REFUGEES AND FAMILY REUNION.

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

I am proud of the contribution the UK has made to assist with the European migration crisis. I would like to reassure you that the Government has approached the implementation of section 67, of the *Immigration Act 2016* (the Dubs amendment) in such a way that best protects vulnerable unaccompanied children.

The Government consulted with local authorities to determine the number of unaccompanied children who could be relocated to the UK and supported by local authorities under section 67 in addition to the over 4,500 unaccompanied children already in the care of local authorities across the UK. This exercise was essential for ensuring that the children would receive the support required upon arrival in the UK. Following the consultation, the Government concluded that there was capacity for 480 unaccompanied child refugees to be transferred to the UK through section 67. On the 3rd October 2018, the Court of Appeal confirmed that the consultation to determine the specified number of children to be relocated was lawful. UK authorities have worked closely with their French, Greek, and Italian counterparts to ensure the smooth transfer of eligible children.

The Government has also introduced an additional provision called 'Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 leave'. This allows unaccompanied children who are relocated to the UK under section 67, but who do not qualify for international protection, to remain in the UK long-term.

The Home Office has also taken note of the Court of Appeal ruling's criticism of the way in which decisions were communicated to children who were refused relocation from Calais to the UK under Section 67 and is consulting with its legal team.

The UK Government is also committed to allowing refugees to apply for their partners and/or children to join them in the UK if they were separated when forced to leave their country of origin.

The issue of refugees is one I have previously raised regularly in the House of Commons. During a debate on refugees and human rights, I highlighted the fact that we should as part of our holistic approach, where appropriate, bring the most vulnerable of refugees, particularly children, to the United Kingdom, which is exactly what we have done, and all of this ties in with the remarkable charitable effort we have seen in this



country – examples of which we have seen in every constituency around the country – including my own, such as in Oundle, and about which we are all rightly proud. As a country, we have a long history of standing up, being counted and doing the right thing. I believe that our response to this crisis lives up to the expectations and obligations upon us.

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**