

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

30<sup>th</sup> January 2019

*Dear Constituent,*

**RE: MENTAL CAPACITY BILL.**

Thank you for contacting me recently about the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

The Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill will introduce legislation to replace the current system known as 'Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards' (DoLS). As you may be aware, DoLS is an assessment currently carried out on those who lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care, such as, by those who are living with dementia. However, the current system is ultimately failing to provide vulnerable people with the protection they need. More than 48,000 people have been waiting over a year for an assessment, and I agree with my ministerial colleagues that we urgently need to act to tackle this injustice.

Therefore, the Government have brought forward a new system, the 'Liberty Protection Safeguards', which will become law through the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill. These reforms will introduce a simpler, streamlined process which is essential to tackle the backlog of vulnerable people waiting for an assessment and, crucially, upholds the rights of the individual throughout the process. Giving more power to the individual, the new safeguards ensure their thoughts and feelings are taken into account at all stages.

As you may be aware, the Bill is currently making its way through Parliament. The Bill builds on the Law Commission's recommendations, including increasing the maximum authorisation length from one year to three years. This is particularly helpful for those with long-term progressive conditions, who are required to start the process again every year under the current system. Every authorisation will also be supported by a programme of reviews, taking place regularly within an authorisation period, to ensure that the care arrangements in place remain appropriate for the individual.

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**