

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

30th January 2019

Dear Constituent,

RE: NHS WAITING TIMES.

Thank you for contacting me recently about the NHS Long Term Plan and NHS waiting times; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

As our population ages, demand for the NHS continues to rise. We owe the NHS staff a great deal of gratitude for their dedication and compassion. I would like to assure you that the Government is taking clear steps to support the NHS and ensure it offers the world's best healthcare.

I appreciate your concern about waiting times in the NHS. Many NHS trusts have faced difficulty in meeting their waiting time targets as a result of acute challenges this winter. The NHS sets exceptionally high waiting time standards and the Government works with bodies like NHS Improvement to make sure they are delivered throughout the health service. The NHS mandate has set clear goals for the health service and I am confident that they will be achieved.

Not only is the Government increasing NHS investment by over £20 billion in real terms over the coming five years, it is making progress on reforms which will help to reduce waiting times and alleviate pressures on the NHS.

Over the next five years, as part of the NHS Long Term Plan, the NHS will have the funds to grow the amount of planned surgery year-on-year; to cut long waits; and to reduce the waiting list. The ability of patients to choose where they have their treatment remains a powerful tool for delivering improved waiting times and patient experiences of care. The NHS will continue to provide patients with a wide choice of options for quick, effective care, including making use of available independent sector capacity. These steps are in addition to measures to offer patients the choice of telephone and online consultations, saving waiting time.

The Long Term Plan sets out that a review of A&E waiting time standards is currently taking place within NHS England. The Department of Health and Social Care will consider the conclusions of the review following its completion. I believe this mandate will provide the health service with the resources and guidance it requires to face the challenges of today's ongoing social, demographic, and technological change.

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

Locally, I am continuing to campaign hard for improved GP access and new primary care provision more generously and anticipate progress being made; having met with the CCG last week.

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU
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