11th July 2018

Dear Constituent,

RE: AIR QUALITY AND POLLUTION (NON-CAR).

Thank you for contacting me recently about air quality and air pollution; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

Air quality has improved significantly since 2010, but sixty years on from the Clean Air Act, air pollution is still making people ill, shortening lives, and damaging our economy and environment.

I welcome the Government’s new draft Clean Air Strategy which aims to cut air pollution and save lives, backed-up by new primary legislation. It details how the UK will go further and faster than the EU in reducing exposure to particulate matter pollution, supplementing the £3.5 billion plan to reduce air pollution from road transport and diesel vehicles, as set out last year.

The Strategy is out for consultation until the 14th August 2018 and forms a key part of the 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment. It sets out a goal to halve the number of people living in locations with concentrations of particulate matter above the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) guidelines, legislate to give councils more powers to improve air quality, and ensure only the cleanest domestic fuels and stoves can be sold.

Other measures include requiring and supporting farmers to invest in reducing emissions of ammonia, working with international partners on new standards for tyres and brakes to reduce emissions of harmful microplastics, investing in research and innovation, and a personal air quality messaging system to keep the public informed.

This action is all in addition to our comprehensive plan to reduce emissions from road transport. The existing £3.5 billion investment includes £1 billion to support the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles, nearly £0.5 billion to help local authorities implement local air quality plans, and about £90 million through the Green Bus fund.

I believe that together, these plans will help us grow a stronger and cleaner economy. Furthermore, campaigning to ensure that pollution levels are kept to a minimum, here, in Corby & East Northamptonshire, is something I will continue to do.

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