

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

4th June 2019

Dear Constituent,

RE: GUIDE DOGS.

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

I share your belief that everyone deserves the right to travel in comfort and with dignity. That is why I value the use of guide dogs, which give people with disabilities the freedom and confidence to work and visit friends independently. There are already, as you are aware, strict laws against the discrimination of those who rely on guide dogs.

The *Equality Act 2010* makes clear the duties of all people to permit guide dogs without any hindrance. Failure to comply with this requirement can result in prosecution and a fine on conviction of up to £1,000. People who use guide dogs currently enjoy the legal right to travel on routes that other animals or pets are not allowed. This is absolutely the right thing as independence is an important aspect in the lives of many people and should be extended to as many people as it is possible.

The use of guide dogs is encouraged by the clear guidance which clarifies the rights of guide dog owners and outlines the options available to those who have been discriminated against when using a guide dog. This includes the ability to report those who do not make reasonable adjustments to make a disabled person's journey easier. Distinctive jackets for guide dogs to wear are issued to help clearly identify them. It is also advised that any identification cards, if given, are carried by a person with disabilities to help ensure they are not discriminated against.

I appreciate the work being undertaken by charities to raise awareness of the rights of guide dog owners, and of the confidence-damaging discrimination that many owners often face. I am pleased that the Government's *Inclusive Transport Strategy* commits to enhancing disability equality and awareness training for transport staff, which will better equip them to safely and confidently assist those with mobility challenges, including guide dog owners.

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

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU

Email: pursglovet@parliament.uk - Telephone: 0207 219 8043

I very much hope to attend the event and have actively supported the Inclusive Transport Strategy!