



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

20th April 2020

Dear Confront,

RE: DEMENTIA CARE & INVESTMENT

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of dementia care and investment; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I can assure you that dementia is a priority for the Government. In 2015, the *Challenge on Dementia 2020* was launched, and I know that the Government remains committed to delivering this. This sets out the vision for dementia care, support, awareness, and research to be transformed by 2020. I fully support the ambition to ensure England offers the world's best dementia care.

Progress in the care, support and treatment of people with dementia has been made, with more people receiving a diagnosis of dementia than ever before. Over 660,000 NHS staff have received dementia training with further training opportunities rolled out to all NHS staff. Over 100,000 social care workers have received some form of dementia awareness training. Since 2015, new care staff have been trained to receive the Care Certificate, which equips them with the knowledge and skills to provide safe and compassionate care, including for those with dementia.

I believe it is important to increase public awareness and understanding of dementia among the wider public to ensure that people are supported to live well with the condition, and I am encouraged that there are over 3 million Dementia Friends, of which I am one, as are members of my parliamentary staff.

Research is clearly crucial to understanding and tackling dementia, which is why the Government has doubled research spending on dementia and remains committed to maintaining the current expenditure on dementia research of at least £60 million a year through to 2020. I am encouraged that over £83 million was spent on dementia research by the Government in 2016/17, the latest year for which figures are available, well in excess of the £60 million target.

The Government is integrating and improving health and social care to protect people at every stage of their lives.

As part of the work to prepare the Social Care Green Paper, I understand my colleagues in the Department of Health & Social Care are considering proposals from the Alzheimer's Society regarding the establishment of a dementia fund, designed to offer a source of funding to help those who need financial support with the additional costs associated with dementia treatment and care.



The Accelerated Access Collaborative was set up in 2018 to speed up the time it takes for patients to benefit from ground-breaking products for conditions such as cancer, dementia and diabetes. The AAC has already selected and supported twelve 'rapid uptake products' to increase their use within the NHS. Together, the products have the potential to improve the lives of around 500,000 patients and save the NHS up to £30 million.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**