

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

17th April 2020

New Consultant,

RE: MENTAL HEALTH

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of mental health; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I agree with the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care that while it is hugely welcome that we are on the road to parity of esteem, there is still more to do. I am extremely encouraged by the news that, as part of the five-year funding offer that will see the annual NHS budget grow by over £33.9 billion, mental health services will receive budget growth of £2.3 billion over the five-year funding settlement - the fastest uplift in funding. This will enable further service expansion and faster access to community and crisis mental health services for both adults and particularly children and young people.

I am pleased that a new mental health crisis service with comprehensive mental health support will be available in every major A&E, alongside new children and young peoples' crisis teams across the country. The additional funding will also deliver more mental health ambulances; "safe havens" in the community; and a 24-hour mental health crisis hotline when people are in urgent need of help.

I hope these new services help end the stigma surrounding mental health, offering crucial support to people suffering from crisis and those who have suffered in silence for too long.

The final report of the *Independent Review of the Mental Health Act* led by Professor Sir Simon Wessely, a former president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, was published in December last year. The Government is currently considering the report and its recommendations in detail, and will set out a response in a White Paper by the end of the year. I can assure you that the intention remains to reform mental health law and I look forward to legislation being brought before the House when it is ready and when parliamentary time allows.

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