



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

27th April 2020

Dear Confront,

RE: NHS STAFFING

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of NHS staffing, with specific reference to the Macmillan event on the cancer workforce; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

Whilst I am afraid I was unable to attend the event you kindly invited me to, I know that the NHS would not work without the 1.4 million staff who work so hard every day, keeping us healthy and caring for us when we need it.

I wholeheartedly support the Government's recent commitment to recruit 50,000 more nurses, 6,000 new GPs, and 6,000 more primary care professionals, in addition to the 7,500 further nurse associates and 20,000 primary care professionals announced previously. These commitments are vital to ensuring our NHS is fit for the long-term.

I entirely understand your concern about the need for more staff immediately - it is well known that it takes years to train healthcare professionals. I am happy to say that there are over 50,000 nurses in training, and the introduction of the new Nursing Degree Apprenticeship and nursing associate roles will significantly bolster the nursing workforce in the short-term, as we continue to build an NHS workforce for the future.

As committed to in the Conservative Party Manifesto, nursing students will receive a £5,000 - £8,000 maintenance grant every year during their course to help with the cost of living, which they won't have to pay back. All students will receive at least £5,000, with further funding in regions or disciplines that are struggling to recruit, such as mental health, as well as help with childcare costs.

I support the use of targeted incentives by the NHS to improve recruitment throughout the country. We must acknowledge that for a long time, there have been many parts of the country which have attracted fewer doctors and nurses, and indeed many other professionals. I believe that NHS England's Targeted Enhanced Recruitment Scheme is a sensible move which will ensure that all parts of the country receive the talented doctors and nurses they deserve.



If you would like further information on this, I would be happy to share the NHS Interim People Plan, which also includes details on better support for staff and ways in which we will improve morale and career prospects.

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'.

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