

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th April 2020

Dear Constance,

RE: VISION IMPAIRED CHILDREN.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the education of vision impaired children and the Guide Dogs event in Parliament; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

Sadly, I suspect the Guide Dogs event will need to be postponed owing to the current emergency situation and the associated restrictions, but I understand your concerns on this issue. It is important that we assess the educational outcomes of specialist special educational needs and disability (SEND) qualifications and I believe we should ensure these qualifications reflect the changing needs of the education system.

As you may be aware, an extra £780 million of high needs funding has been announced for 2020/21, so every pupil can access the education that is right for them. This builds on the £6.3 billion of high needs funding which was already allocated for 2019/20, which has provided greater support for local authorities to help them work with young people with SEND, including children with vision impairment.

Alongside this, £3.4 million of funding has been made available to equip the school workforce to deliver high quality teaching for pupils across all types of SEND, including for vision impaired children. The Government is also supporting university students with impaired vision through the Disabled Students' Allowance, which is available to supplement the support offered by higher education institutions and enables the provision of more specialist support to be offered. For example, mobility trainers for blind or visually impaired students.

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