



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th May 2020

Dear Constance,

RE: CORONAVIRUS - IMMIGRATION & PUBLIC FUNDS.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) campaign as the Coronavirus outbreak continues; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

Those who arrive in the UK to establish their family life must do so on a basis that prevents burdens on the state and the wider taxpayer. It is a key principle that those who benefit from the state should contribute towards it.

As I understand it, those who have leave to remain in the UK on human rights grounds can apply to have their NRPF condition removed if they would otherwise be destitute. Local authorities can also provide a safety net for those in a genuine need of care that does not solely arise from destitution. These include cases where there are community care needs, or migrants with serious health issues or family cases.

The protection of public funds through NRPF is a standard condition applied to those staying in the UK with a temporary immigration status. Indefinite Leave to Remain is set as the general threshold for permitting migrants to access public funds.

You may be reassured to hear that these measures have been developed over many years and by successive Governments. I also welcome the fact that they are consistent with legislation in comparable countries and our position was approved by Parliament in primary legislation.

I very much welcome the fact that Coronavirus has been included in the list of infectious diseases. This means that anyone experiencing symptoms, irrespective of their immigration status, will be treated free of charge. A dedicated Coronavirus immigration help centre is available to provide assistance and this can be accessed by emailing CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Finally, I appreciate it is difficult not to be concerned by the current situation, but it is essential that we all remain calm, follow the comprehensive public health advice and take appropriate precautions, including thorough and regular hand-washing, and isolating where necessary.



I genuinely believe that the Government is taking all appropriate steps to try and protect and shield the public from this global disease, as far as we are able, and it is the case that we have global experts leading and informing the UK's response. That response is informed by the science and is evidence-based. We are also providing a comprehensive package of support to help people, businesses and communities through this challenging period, which is constantly kept under review and will undoubtedly be responsive to the changing circumstances ahead.

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**