

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd June 2020

Dear Confront,

RE: CORONAVIRUS - SUPPORT FOR CHILDCARE PROVIDERS.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the support available for childcare providers during the Coronavirus outbreak; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

In March, the Government asked early years providers to close to all but the children of critical workers and vulnerable children, in response to the pandemic. Thanks to the hard work of the British people, we are now in a position to take the first small steps on the road to recovery. Nurseries and other early years providers can now welcome back all children. Early years settings are being asked to implement a range of protective measures including increased cleaning, reducing 'pinch points' (such as parents dropping children off at the start and the end of the day), and utilising outdoor space. This approach is in line with other countries across Europe, who have begun to bring pre-school and school-age children back in a phased way and are focusing on primary schools and younger children.

Priority groups, including vulnerable children and children of critical workers who have been eligible to attend throughout school closures, will continue to be able to attend early years settings as they have been.

I recognise that the closures will have had a big impact on providers and so I am pleased that the Government acted swiftly to support them. A range of support has been made available, including a Business Rates holiday for one year. That means non-local authority providers of childcare will pay no Business Rates in 2020-21, as at the 1st April 2020. The Secretary of State for Education has also confirmed that the Department for Education will continue to fully fund local authorities for free childcare entitlements.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me, and I hope that the above has offered some reassurance. 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

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU
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