

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

3rd June 2020

Dear Confrontant,

RE: COVID-19 - SUPPORT FOR PUBS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of support for pubs during COVID-19; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I share your concern about pubs being affected by the outbreak of COVID-19. Like you, I recognise how important pubs are to our national culture and I wish to see them preserved.

I welcome the new measures the Government is putting in place to help businesses, particularly pubs. These mean that no pub or other business in the hospitality sector will be required to pay business rates this year. Local authorities will apply the rates relief automatically and no action is required by pub ratepayers.

Relaxing rules on pubs, to allow them to operate as a hot food takeaway during this time, is also giving greater flexibility to their service and helping people to avoid unnecessary social contact. I also welcome the Chancellor's announcement that the Government is freezing all alcohol duty for the tenth year in a row.

Some pubs are also seeking innovative ways to weather the crisis and we should remain open-minded about helping them find new ways of serving customers. As pubs play a huge role in British society and in our community here in Corby & East Northamptonshire, I will of course continue to support the measures introduced to relieve the financial burden they are facing at this time.

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