

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

15th June 2020

New Contract,

RE: CORONAVIRUS - SUPPORT FOR ROAD HAULIERS.

Thank you for contacting me recently about support for road hauliers during the Coronavirus emergency; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I fully recognise that this is a challenging time for road hauliers, and I am also appreciative of the role that road hauliers are playing in the national effort to combat COVID-19. I have been following the industry's situation closely and listening carefully to the views of hauliers here in Corby & East Northamptonshire and representing those views to Ministers regularly in the discussions I have had.

I welcome that some practical steps have been taken to support the industry. For example, the Government has extended the validity of DQCs with expiry dates from the 1st February 2020 to the 31st August 2020. The extension gives drivers an extra seven months to complete their 35 hours of periodic training. In addition, drivers whose licences have expired this year, or will expire this year, will be able to receive a temporary one-year licence, providing they are fit to drive.

Road hauliers are also able to draw on the unprecedented package of financial support made available by the Government, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the deferral of VAT payments.

In addition, a new Bounce Back Loans Scheme has launched, offering loans of up to £50,000, with a 100 percent Government-backed guarantee for lenders. The full range of support can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/financial-support-for-businesses-during-coronavirus-covid-19#paying-tax>.

It is my understanding that the Government does not currently plan to introduce a financial support scheme specifically for haulage businesses whose vehicles are idle due to COVID-19. However, Ministers have said they will keep their position under review.

Indeed, I know that the Department for Transport is in regular contact with the Road Haulage Association, the Freight Transport Association and others to understand the challenges facing the industry, to make sure that appropriate measures are in place and to identify barriers road hauliers are facing in accessing the support available. I will of course continue to feed in local experiences and concerns too.

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

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