

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

3rd June 2020

Dear Constance,

RE: CORONAVIRUS - UNIVERSAL CREDIT

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

I agree that it is critical the Government delivers essential support to people across the country during this unprecedented time. It is very clear that the steps we need to take to confront this public health emergency are having a profound effect on our economy. I know that many people now fear losing their jobs and being unable to pay their rent, or mortgage and bills.

I am sure you are aware that the Chancellor has introduced measures to support those who now find themselves without employment. I am encouraged that these include extra support for the welfare system through Working Tax Credit (WTC) and Universal Credit (UC). Both the UC standard allowance and the WTC basic element have been increased by £1,000 per year for the next 12 months. This equates to an additional £86.67 per month, on top of the planned annual uprating. Together, these measures represent an injection of £6.5 billion into the welfare system.

All existing WTC recipients are set to benefit, alongside all UC claimants, both new and existing. The new rates will automatically be reflected in claimants' awards. Around 2.5 million households will immediately benefit from this additional UC funding, as will anyone who becomes unemployed, or whose earnings decrease under the impact of Coronavirus.

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

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU
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