

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of support for people with Motor Neurone Disease (MND); your comments upon which I have read with great interest. I know MND can have a devastating impact on a person's quality of everyday life and be a real struggle for patients and their loved ones.

Thank you for inviting me to the June 2020 meeting of the APPG for MND, and whilst I am unfortunately unable to attend, I shall continue to follow this issue closely.

Please allow me to assure you that ensuring early diagnosis and support for those living with MND remains a key priority of the NHS. With early diagnosis key to treating the symptoms of MND, I am glad that the National Institute for Health & Care Excellence (NICE) has published new guidelines for clinicians on the assessment and management of MND. These set out the signs and symptoms of the disease, and recommend that patients suspected of having MND should be referred without delay. The Royal College of GPs and the MND Association have also worked together to produce a 'Red Flag Tool' which sets out key signs of MND to help GPs to identify suspected cases and ensure prompt referral.

I also recognise the valuable contribution made by carers of people with MND, many of whom spend a significant proportion of their life providing support to family members, friends and neighbours. I agree that carers must receive the right support to help them carry out their caring roles and a new cross-Government *National Carers Strategy* is being introduced to look at what more can be done to support existing and future carers.

I am particularly encouraged that almost £288 million has been spent on research into neurological conditions, including MND, since 2010, through the publicly-funded National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). With the NIHR's annual spending on neurological conditions up by more than £22 million since 2010, I remain hopeful that this funding will help discover new ways to improve the lives of those diagnosed with MND.

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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