



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: TACKLING HOMELESSNESS & ROUGH SLEEPING.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of providing further support for rough sleepers during and beyond the Coronavirus pandemic; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

A single person without a roof over their head is one too many, and it is important that the most vulnerable people are helped to get their lives back on track. I stood on a commitment to end rough sleeping once and for all and welcome that almost 15,000 rough sleepers and those at risk of doing so have been offered safe accommodation since the start of the pandemic.

But the real challenge has just begun. There needs to be a long-term solution to help those that have been brought in, which is why over half a billion in support has been provided on homelessness and rough sleeping. It is encouraging to see that the 'Next Steps Accommodation Programme' has been launched, which will cover property costs and support new tenancies for around 15,000 vulnerable people. Local councils and their partners can apply for support from the £266 million fund, to help make sure people continue to have a safe place to stay and can start to rebuild their lives with wrap-around support services and care.

Furthermore, I am encouraged that £105 million has been given towards interim accommodation and £433 million has been allocated to provide 6,000 safe and long-term homes for those in need. £161 million of this funding is available this year to provide 3,300 units of supported housing for those in emergency accommodation. As well as this, Public Health England has provided £23 million this year to ensure that drug and alcohol treatment services are maintained for people as they move into longer-term accommodation and to support those who have not previously engaged with treatment services.

I am glad that the Government has extended powers to the most affected local authorities to support certain EEA nationals sleeping rough to the end of the year and I have been assured by ministerial colleagues that they are coordinating across departments on how these challenges can be addressed over the coming months, as we begin recovering from the pandemic.

Everyone deserves a home to call their own and affordability is key to ensuring people can do so. The Government has committed to building 300,000 new homes of all tenures each year by the mid-2020s, and great progress has been made with over 240,000 homes being delivered in 2018-19 – the highest number in 32 years. The current £9 billion Affordable Homes Programme will be replaced by a £12 billion one to ensure that homes for low-income families are built where they are most urgently needed.



At this time of emergency, we need to keep up the momentum to address rough sleeping once and for all.

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*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**