

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

*New Constituent,*

**RE: SAVE THE CHILDREN AND JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION CAMPAIGN.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the Save the Children and Joseph Rowntree Foundation campaign calling for a £20 increase to the child element of Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

The Coronavirus outbreak is the biggest public health emergency in a generation, and I share your concern about the economic impact it will have on people, especially children, in our constituency.

Like you, I believe it is absolutely essential that the Government provides support to people at this difficult time, especially to ensure that protecting children is at the heart of our recovery. I welcome the range of support that has been made available, at speed, to support low income families.

It is now easier to access benefits, and Ministers in the Department for Work & Pensions have made significant enhancements to the welfare system to ensure people receive vital support. This includes the increases to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit, which are uplifting people's income, and an increase in the Local Housing Allowance rates for Universal Credit and Housing Benefit claimants to the 30th percentile of local market rents.

In addition to the annual increase to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit, other measures have been introduced to support children from low income families during this time.

For example, I welcome the action that has kept schools providing free school meals for eligible families. In recognition of the unprecedented situation facing parents this summer, the new Covid Summer Food Fund was announced. Additional funding has enabled children who are eligible for free school meals to claim a 6-week voucher to cover the summer holiday period. A £9 million summer holiday activities and food programme has also run, offering activities and meals to thousands of disadvantaged children.

Together, these measures represent one of the most comprehensive packages of support introduced by an advanced economy in response to the Coronavirus outbreak.

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**