

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

*Dear Constituent,*

**RE: BLOOD CANCER & 'SHIELDING'.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of support for those 'shielding' during COVID-19, with specific reference to those suffering with blood cancer.

First, I would like to thank all those suffering from blood cancer for their efforts in shielding during the pandemic. It is crucial that those at most risk in our society are protected in order to safeguard their own health and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed. I am also greatly saddened and concerned to hear of financial difficulties at this hugely challenging time. Clearly, nobody following Government instruction should be penalised for their efforts.

I am aware that the advice indicated that employees, unable to work because they were shielding in line with public health guidance, could be placed on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, such that their employer could claim a grant that covered 80 percent of their usual monthly wage, up to £2,500 a month. For those who have been placed on furlough, I encourage them to contact their employer to alert them to the fact that they are shielding in line with public health and Government guidance and therefore continue to be eligible for the scheme. These grants now cover 60 percent of wages up to a maximum cap of £1,875 for the hours the employee is on furlough, with employers topping up employees' wages to ensure they receive 80 percent (up to £2,500).

I welcome the clear Government guidance that indicates that, as of the 4th July, clinically vulnerable people are now able to meet people both outdoors and indoors, while remaining vigilant about hygiene. Those classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, who have been advised to shield, are now able to form support bubbles, and spend time outdoors in a group of up to 6 people. From the 1st August, shielding has been paused for clinically extremely vulnerable people. While these steps are being taken as long as the incidence rate in the community remains low, they will be most welcome for individuals who have been shielding since March.

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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