

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th September 2020

Dear Confront,

RE: CORONAVIRUS - 'NATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION'.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the effect of Coronavirus on the country and your desire to see a 'National Day of Reflection' introduced.

As we all recognise, the outbreak of the virus has had a significant impact on the social and economic life of the country. We have had to give up the freedoms that we once took for granted and faced new restrictions on our way of life. The British people continue to adapt to these changes with fortitude and courage. The success of our collective endeavours means that the spread of the virus has been reduced from its peak earlier this year, but we are no doubt entering a challenging period ahead.

I am grateful for the efforts of NHS staff, care workers and other key workers. They are carrying out their duties tirelessly and with great bravery and courage. I know that the entire nation is thankful for their tireless work, as you and I both are.

The suffering caused by the virus has been felt keenly by families and communities across the country. We will never forget the sadness or anxiety of recent months, which have been unprecedented in peacetime. It has been particularly painful for those who have lost a loved one. The speed with which the virus overwhelms its victims and the social distancing restrictions introduced during end of life care and funerals has made the mourning process especially difficult. I was deeply moved by the minute's silence for Coronavirus victims on the 4th July.

The families of eligible NHS workers who have died from Coronavirus in the course of their work will receive a £60,000 payment as part of the NHS's death in service scheme. This has been extended to cover full, part-time and locum NHS and public health workers, as well as NHS support staff and social care workers. I recognise your wish to see this extended to other victims of Coronavirus, but this lump sum currently only applies to those working in the health service.

I will gladly support Marie Curie's campaign for a 'National Day of Reflection' to be held on the 23rd March next year. It is right that we remember the victims of COVID-19 and show our support for all those affected by the disease. I also wish to express my gratitude for the work of Marie Curie nurses and other healthcare professionals. The support that they provide to those at the end of their lives, and their families, is special and uniquely valuable.



Prayer has also been important for many of my constituents during the outbreak and I support those who wish to hold a day of prayer to remember those who have lost their lives during the pandemic. Indeed, I have been very appreciative of the regular prayers in our community at our local places of worship throughout the pandemic, for all those affected by this dreadful disease.

This has undoubtedly been our biggest challenge as a country since World War II. We must continue our efforts to control the virus in order to save lives and prevent more loss, particularly as we move into the difficult winter period ahead. We will never forget the victims of this pandemic and I know I speak for our entire community in saying so.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

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