

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

24th September 2020

New Complaint,

RE: EDM 818 - 'BEREAVEMENT STANDARD'.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of administrative actions which must be taken when a person has sadly died, with specific reference to associated Early Day Motion (EDM) 818.

Notwithstanding the fact that as a Government Minister I am unable to sign EDMs, in any event, I have general concerns about the effectiveness and expense of the EDM system, and I think it is much more effective to raise concerns directly with Ministers, both verbally, and in writing, rather than signing EDMs, and so I must politely decline your request. With that in mind, I have spoken to Ministers directly about your concerns.

While grieving, I know there are important actions that must be taken early on which can often be extremely difficult and distressing to do. These may include closing bank accounts, informing utility providers of the death, and completing other paperwork. I understand the frustration this may cause, particularly when different organisations may have different processes in place, or require different information. I am therefore aware of EDM 818 which seeks to create a 'Bereavement Standard'.

There may be benefits to streamlining the process of closing accounts - however, when developing such a standard the developer would have to ensure that sufficient security measures were in place to protect the data.

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

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