

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

*Dear Confront,*

**RE: FUEL PRICES.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of fuel prices; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

As you may be aware, a continuation of the freeze of fuel duty was promised during the election campaign. I welcome the fact that the decision to freeze fuel duty for ten consecutive years has saved the average driver over £1,000. I am confident that we can build on this legacy, so that ordinary hardworking people can keep more of their money.

However, it is worth noting that the fuel duty freeze comes at significant cost to the Exchequer, and that £67 billion has been spent on freezing fuel duty, and another £46 billion will be spent by the end of 2025.

While I am aware of the arguments in favour of introducing an independent pump pricing watchdog, I do not believe such a move is necessary. I firmly believe that the most effective way to keep fuel prices down is through an open and competitive market. In 2013, the Office for Fair Trading investigated competition in the UK fuel sector and concluded that it was operating well. It should be highlighted that the Government works with numerous stakeholders to ensure that the fuel industry is competitive, so consumers benefit from low prices.

With regards to road infrastructure, I welcome the commitment to invest a total of £28.8 billion in England's strategic and local roads. I hope you are reassured by the fact that I am committed to the improvement of infrastructure for motorists.

I also know the Chancellor is committed to conducting a review on reform of the aviation tax landscape and I look forward to seeing this review come to fruition in due course.

Finally, I have also conveyed your comments on fuel duty to my ministerial colleagues at the Treasury, who assure me that all elements of taxation, including the various reliefs associated with any given tax, are kept under constant review. Any changes to fuel duty would be considered as part of the normal process leading up to the next Budget, although it has been announced that there will be no Budget this autumn.



My colleagues at the Treasury have also emphasised that any future fuel duty rates will be considered alongside measures that are needed to help meet the UK's net-zero commitment.

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**