

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd October 2020

Dear Consultant,

RE: FUNDING FOR DIABETES TECHNOLOGY.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of Diabetes UK's 'Cheque for Tech' campaign that calls for increased funding for Diabetes technology; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I absolutely agree that technology could, and should, provide vital support to people managing long-term conditions such as Diabetes. New treatments and technologies are constantly evolving, which is why I welcome the *Medicines & Medical Devices Bill* to keep pace with advances in technology and keep patients safe whilst ensuring they have the safest and earliest possible access to new drugs and technologies.

In November 2017, FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitors were made available on the NHS for those with Type 1 Diabetes, subject to local approval. After an investigation found patients in some areas of the country were being denied access, NHS England announced it would fund the device to allow access throughout the country, across all 195 Clinical Commissioning Groups. I am pleased that since April 2019, all qualifying patients have been able to receive Flash Glucose Monitoring, or Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) from their local GP or Diabetes team. This will help to make life more convenient for those with the condition while saving the NHS time and resources by preventing people becoming ill in the first place.

Technology has continued to evolve since then and a number of apps have been developed to help manage Diabetes, as well as new devices which establish a connection between a CGM monitor and an Insulin pump to automatically give Insulin when blood sugar is too high, and to stop Insulin when it is too low. While these loop systems are currently unregulated, they have the potential to revolutionise the way patients with Diabetes are able to manage their health and are a testament to the determination of scientists to support people with long-term conditions.

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'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE