

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

25th September 2020

New Constituent,

RE: THE RIGHT TO WORK FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding asylum seekers and their right to work in the UK; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I recognise that this is a very important issue: the UK has a proud tradition of providing a safe place for refugees fleeing insurmountable difficulties. Each claim for asylum is carefully considered and where it is found that individuals are in need of protection, asylum is given, with the ultimate aim of helping them to return home if it is safe to do so.

Asylum seekers are allowed to work in jobs on the Shortage Occupation List if their claim has not been decided after 12 months through no fault of their own. The current policy aims to strike a balance between being equitable towards asylum seekers, while considering the rights and needs of our society as a whole, prioritising jobs for British citizens and those with leave to remain here, including refugees.

I understand that the Government is considering recent calls to change the current policy and is reviewing the evidence available. I am also aware that in June 2020, the High Court granted permission for a judicial review of the current policy.

Campaign groups, including 'Lift the Ban', make interesting points about the economic benefits of changing the policy and I am assured Ministers will take this into consideration when reviewing it.

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