

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

24th November 2020

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Constance,

RE: FUNDING FOR DEMENTIA RESEARCH.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding funding for dementia research; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I believe increasing public awareness and understanding of dementia among the wider public is vital to ensure that those with dementia are given the best possible support and I am encouraged that there are over three million 'Dementia Friends' - of which I am proudly one - who help to raise awareness and understanding, so that people living with dementia can continue to live in the way they want.

Research is crucial to understanding and tackling dementia and in 2017, the Government launched the UK Dementia Research Institute, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research UK, with £290 million of funding - the single biggest investment ever made in the UK in this field.

Under the 'Challenge on Dementia 2020 Strategy', the Government committed to spend over £300 million on dementia research between 2015 and 2020 and this was met a year early, with £341 million being spent by March 2019 through the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the Department of Health & Social Care. The Government is also supporting the £79 million 'Accelerating Detection of Disease' (ADD) challenge; a project that brings together the NHS, industry and leading charities to support research into the early diagnosis of disease, including dementia.

By the end of 2020, all relevant staff will be expected to have received appropriate dementia training, including training relevant staff to be able to signpost interested individuals towards research via the Join Dementia Research Service. I understand that good progress has been made against this goal, and more options are currently being reviewed to increase the take-up of more advanced training among those who need it.

As you might be aware, the Prime Minister recently announced the Government's intention to provide the NHS with an additional £33.9 billion by 2023/24; this is the largest, longest, funding settlement in the history of the NHS. This landmark settlement investment to help secure the long-term future of our NHS is extremely welcome, and I hope you agree it demonstrates the Government's commitment to properly funding our NHS and public services. As part of this, there is a commitment to improving detection, with more targeted screening and Rapid Access Diagnostic Centres, so that in 10 years' time these measures will help prevent cases of dementia.

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

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE