



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

6th November 2020

New Content,

RE: FUNDING OF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of funding for Fire & Rescue Authorities, during and beyond the Coronavirus pandemic; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I completely agree that it is right to say that throughout the pandemic, our Fire & Rescue Authorities across the country have played an essential role in the national effort to tackle Coronavirus. Throughout this emergency, their work has included helping other emergency services, aiding vulnerable people and supporting the NHS. It is important to remember that this is on top of their usual, and vital, firefighting duties.

In my own constituency of Corby & East Northamptonshire, of which I am proud to serve, I am truly humbled by the work of these brave men and women who work tirelessly around the clock in their efforts to save others, and often at great personal risk. Importantly, I have always had a good working relationship with them in campaigning on these matters - with real success - and as the son of two former police officers locally, you won't be surprised to know our 'blue light' services have a strong ally in me.

I therefore welcome the fact that the Home Office has launched a £6 million 'Fire Coronavirus Contingency Fund'. This funding will help to support Fire & Rescue Authorities who incur significant costs as a result of taking on additional duties during the COVID-19 outbreak.

I can assure you that Fire & Rescue Authorities have the necessary funding to respond to incidents. Overall, they will receive around £2.3 billion in 2020/21. It is also good news that £6.4 billion in extra funding has been made available for local councils to relieve local pressures and help vulnerable people as they see fit, according to local needs. Indeed, the Government has provided the local authorities covering this constituency with substantial extra funding to help meet the specific needs of our communities – totalling £1.47 million for Corby Borough Council (CBC), £1.36 million for East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) and £62.69 million for Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), to date. This is in addition to the funding that the local authorities routinely receive from the Government towards covering the costs of services annually. As I am sure you will agree, these are undeniably very significant sums of extra funding and the councils have been given the freedom to spend this money as they see fit on the emergency response locally - as is right and proper.



I hope this clarifies the Government's ongoing commitment to Fire & Rescue Authorities nationally, and you can be assured I will continue to engage with Ministers on their invaluable role and work constructively here in our area to make effective representations on behalf of Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service around any specific needs that it might have. In closing, I would also like to again pay tribute to the remarkable men and women who do so much to keep people safe in our community, and to whom we all owe an enormous debt of gratitude.

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**