



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th November 2020

Dear Constance,

RE: LIFE SCIENCES CHARITY PARTNERSHIP FUND

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of support for charities during and beyond the Coronavirus pandemic; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

During these incredibly difficult times the work of charities is more important than ever. I was reassured to learn that Ministers in BEIS and their officials have met with the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) and their members regularly in recent months, covering topics like the potential challenges as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Moreover, I know that the Department of Health & Social Care is also working with the AMRC, as well as individual charities, to understand the impact of the pandemic on the sector, and how the Government and charities can work together to ensure that patients continue benefiting from charity funded research. Medical research charities are an integral part of the United Kingdom's world-leading life sciences sector, and I support the ongoing work between the Government and AMRC.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has made available £750 million worth of funding for charities to enable them to continue providing essential services to those most in need. As part of this funding package, £22 million has been awarded to help lifesaving health charities. I have spoken with colleagues at HM Treasury about your suggestions for the Spending Review taking place this year. There will be a one-year review setting budgets for next year, which will allow for a focus on tackling COVID-19 and delivering the 'Plan for Jobs'. Regrettably, I am not in a position to pre-empt the conclusions of the review. I am, however, assured by my aforementioned colleagues that they are aware of the policy suggestions you have raised.

I know what a worrying time this is for many charities just at the point when many are needed most. As you may be aware, heart and circulatory disease, also known as cardiovascular disease (CVD), causes a quarter of all deaths in the UK and is the largest cause of premature mortality in deprived areas. This is the single biggest area where the NHS can save lives over the next ten years. I welcome goals set out in the 'NHS Long Term Plan' which seek to target this, including preventing up to 150,000 heart attacks, strokes, and dementia cases over the next ten years, working with partners to improve community first response and building defibrillator networks to improve survival from out of hospital cardiac arrest, and working to ensure up to 85 percent of those eligible are accessing cardiac rehabilitation care by 2028 - among the best



in Europe. I believe the work the British Heart Foundation is doing, including raising awareness and investing in research, is key to the combined effort to save lives from Coronavirus.

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**