

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th November 2020

New Contact,

RE: THE CORONAVIRUS ACT & THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the emergency legislation relating to the Government's response to the Coronavirus and your concerns regarding how this will impact those with disabilities.

I would like to first reassure you that all the measures in the *Coronavirus Act* are temporary and proportionate to the threat we face. It is important that they will only be used when strictly necessary and will only be in place for as long as required in direct response to rising infection rates. I welcome measures in place to review this legislation on a six-monthly basis to ensure that the measures remain appropriate. It is clear that the virus will be with us for some time, and it is vital that we are able to take steps when necessary to save lives.

The purpose of the legislation is to ensure that sufficient NHS staff are available, and deployed where they are most needed, as well as supporting members of the public, and containing and slowing the virus.

In terms of your concerns regarding how these measures will impact disabled people specifically, I understand that the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent 'lockdown' measures, although applied universally, will have affected people in different ways dependent on their circumstances. It is absolutely vital that throughout this second national 'lockdown', local authorities do as much as they can to comply with their duties to meet needs, and the legislation does not remove their duty of care towards any individual's risk of neglect or harm. Indeed, local authorities are expected to continue to deliver the best possible care services during the peak of this virus and protect the lives of the most vulnerable members of our society in whatever circumstance.

I hope that opportunities for positive change will come out of this period for those living with disabilities, particularly when it comes to work. Normalising working from home and other flexible adjustments is one way we can emerge from this into a world that better embraces people with disabilities.

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