

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

*Dear Consultant,*

**RE: CORONAVIRUS – SUPPORT FOR UNPAID CARERS**

Thank you for your recent correspondence about support for unpaid carers during the Coronavirus pandemic; your comments upon which I have read with great interest and compassion.

I recognise the valuable contribution made by carers of all kinds - residential, domiciliary, paid, unpaid - many of whom spend a significant proportion of their life providing support to family members, friends and neighbours.

I totally agree that carers must receive the right support to help them carry out their caring roles. A tenth of adults in the UK provide unpaid care for a friend or family member, and these people should be supported in the invaluable work they do.

I know that the Government is committed to supporting the 5.4 million unpaid carers over the winter months. Funding has recently been extended to Carers UK's support phone line until March 2021 to cover the winter period, and the Department of Health & Social Care will also provide free flu vaccines for unpaid carers. In addition, the Department for Education has launched the 'See, Hear, Respond' service in partnership with Barnardo's to support young carers through this challenging time. I am assured that cross-departmental work is ongoing to scope further support options for young carers.

Existing support will remain available including through the Carer's Allowance, as well as through NHS volunteers who can provide support by going shopping or collecting prescriptions. Ministers have committed to regularly updating and bolstering the online guidance for unpaid carers, and I will continue to monitor progress in this area, speaking up for unpaid carers in Parliament.

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,*  
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**