

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: FOOD POVERTY & UK GLOBAL TARIFF**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of food poverty and UK Global Tariff; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

Clearly, we all want to do what we can to alleviate food poverty and as such, I am encouraged that the Government has taken significant action to make sure children and their families do not go hungry during this pandemic.

I know that our negotiators are working their hardest to reach a deal with the EU on a free trade agreement with no tariffs, fees, charges, or quotas across all goods sectors, including food. However, it remains possible that agreement will not be reached. I shall, of course, ensure that my ministerial colleagues are aware of the concerns you have raised and I shall be following progress in the negotiations very closely, as I have to date.

Meanwhile, I know that my ministerial colleagues at the Department for International Trade are devoting their energies to ensuring the UK's new trade powers help reduce food prices and the burden on British consumers through tariff reduction and a programme of ambitious trade negotiations.

The UK Global Tariff (UKGT), which will take effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, will be simpler and easier to use than the EU's Common External Tariff (CET), bringing in lower tariffs and rounding down tariffs. Overall, with the UKGT, just under 50 percent of products will be zero tariff, compared to 27 percent under the CET. The UKGT will remove tariffs on £30 billion worth of imports, including food produce entering UK supply chains. Tariff reduction on machinery will also enable British food producers to provide families with a variety of more affordable foodstuffs.

I know that there are genuine concerns about the effect of future trade deals on the standards of our food. We rightly have high standards in this country and I am glad to be able to reassure you that Ministers have said that there is no way the Government will reduce those standards - we really could not be clearer on this. Ultimately, British consumers want high welfare produce, and if our trading partners want to break into the UK market, they should expect to meet those standards.

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU

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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**