

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: JAMAICA DEPORTATION FLIGHT.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of deportation flights; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I understand you are specifically concerned about a recent charter flight to Jamaica and I would like to take this opportunity to outline why this happened and why I fully support this course of action. That said, I believe it is very important that the Home Office is open and transparent about the processes followed, which is why I also enclose a copy of a letter from the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon Priti Patel MP, which sets out further background to this situation in response to a letter from an opposition MP.

I understand there have been reports in the media relating to a number of individuals being removed from the flight. New and late legal representations made whilst an individual is detained are considered carefully and in accordance with the law. From my perspective, welcome, the Government is committed to fighting legal claims designed to disrupt these deportations.

The flight you are referring to earlier this week removed serious foreign national offenders. To be clear: these are not British citizens and importantly do not qualify for citizenship or support under the Windrush compensation and documentation schemes. Indeed, each person who was in scope for this flight had their case checked by the Windrush Taskforce.

I would like to be clear that the Home Secretary is required by the *UK Borders Act 2007* - under the law passed by the last Labour Government - to deport any foreign national who has received a custodial sentence of at least twelve months, and those convicted of serious crimes, who are persistent offenders, or who represent a threat to national security; unless a specified exception applies.

It is also the case that the UK only deports those whom the Home Office or the Courts, when a legal claim is raised, are satisfied do not need protection and have no legal basis to remain in the UK. It is right that every individual who meets the threshold for deportation is given access to legal advice and support and importantly has an opportunity to challenge their removal through the legal system.

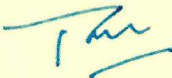
The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on returns. However, the Home Office has continued to remove individuals where flight routes are available. I can assure you that public health guidance is adhered to on all removal flights and I have been informed that transport arrangements will continue to be reviewed in line with Government advice.

In fact, the UK is one of the few countries in the world providing support to help people re-integrate upon their return. This includes supporting multiple charities and non-government organisations in Jamaica.



While we may not agree on this matter, I hope that through this response I have been able to outline why, and how, deportations of this kind happen and the very sound grounds for this approach, I would argue both legally and morally. I make no apology whatsoever for believing very strongly that foreign national offenders should be deported, and my sympathies are with those whose lives they have adversely impacted through their crimes.

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 PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**