

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th January 2021

Dear Confrontant,

RE: CORONAVIRUS – OUT-OF-SCHOOL SETTINGS.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the impact of Coronavirus on out-of-school settings, specifically residential educational visits; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I recognise how disruptive and difficult this virus has been on our society. Out-of-school settings play an important role in providing enriching activities, giving children the opportunity to socialise with others outside their household, and promoting their wellbeing. These settings also provide additional childcare options to parents and carers, particularly those with younger children, who may need to return to, or continue to work, during the school holidays.

Ministers recognise the enormous benefits overnight residential educational visits can provide for children. However, for the time being, out-of-school settings should not be offering overnight or residential provision for children. Clearly, in light of the alarming spread of the new variant of Coronavirus, we must do all we can to stop the virus transmitting.

As things stand, Ministers are due to review the possibility of allowing overnight residential educational visits to resume from Easter 2021. This is on the proviso that the scientific evidence supports any such change.

Given we have at least one local provider in the constituency who I am already working closely with, you can be assured that I will continue to raise these concerns and support the sector in any way that I can.

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