



5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: 'THINK BRAIN HEALTH' CAMPAIGN**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the impact of Coronavirus on people with dementia, and more specifically the 'Think Brain Health' campaign; your comments upon which I have read with great interest and compassion.

I know from personal experience just how challenging it is for families caring for loved ones during this difficult time, particularly those who have needed to take on extra responsibilities. I know that the Government is working closely with system partners, stakeholders, local authorities and the care sector to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on people with dementia and to identify what additional actions may be required to ensure safety, and access to the right support and care.

In addition, research through the National Institute for Health Research was commissioned on how to manage or mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on people with dementia and their carers living in the community. The research has considered the best ways to support people to stay well during the outbreak, including help to manage the psychological and social impacts of social distancing, self-isolation, and 'lockdown'. You can find more information, including summary leaflets, here:

<http://www.idealproject.org.uk/covid/>

I agree that we should do everything we can to offer support to people with long-term health conditions, as well as those who support them, throughout this difficult time, and I will certainly continue to monitor this issue closely and I have raised your views with my ministerial colleagues.

Only one third of people in the UK realise that it is possible to reduce their risk of dementia and I am aware of the importance of a healthy lifestyle to overall brain health. With this in mind, I would be happy to further highlight the importance of brain health through Alzheimer's Research UK's 'Think Brain Health' campaign. This is a fantastic initiative, which raises some very valuable points about how to keep our brains healthy.

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**