



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd April 2021

New Content,

RE: BT REDUNDANCIES

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of restructuring at BT; your comments upon which I have read with interest.

Like you, I regret any loss of jobs in the UK as a result of redundancy, and I very much appreciate the efforts of BT staff to keep communication lines open during a period where many people have relied on them to work, or learn from home.

I have been assured that my ministerial colleagues regularly engage with BT about a range of topics, including their UK workforce, at both the official and ministerial levels. Ultimately, however, BT is a private company, so decisions about its structure and employment are a matter for the BT Board. I am encouraged that BT's approach is to minimise redundancies through natural attrition and to provide opportunities to re-skill and redeploy workers whenever possible.

I know that Ministers are committed to boosting job creation. The *'Plan for Jobs'* announced during the Summer Economic Update makes up to £30 billion available with a clear goal to create, protect, and support jobs, and to spur the UK's recovery following COVID-19. The plan includes three main points: supporting people to find the jobs that are out there; creating new jobs through investing in our infrastructure and housing; and protecting jobs by revitalising the hard-hit sectors upon which many jobs depend.

More generally, the Government is committed to delivering nationwide gigabit connectivity as soon as possible, and is investing £5 billion to deliver gigabit-capable services to the hardest to reach parts of the UK. Nationwide gigabit roll-out will create thousands of high-quality jobs in the UK and help the country build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

All that said, I shall, of course, pass on your concerns to my ministerial colleagues at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

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