

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

*New Contract,*

**RE: NHS PRIVATISATION**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of private sector involvement in the NHS; your comments upon which I have read with interest.

I fully believe in our NHS and its values, which is why I welcome that the Government has guaranteed that the NHS will always provide healthcare free at the point of delivery, regardless of ability to pay. Let me be abundantly clear: the Government will never privatise the NHS.

The use of private providers and the voluntary sector in the delivery of NHS services is not a new concept, with the previous Labour Government introducing the independent sector and competition into the NHS between 1997 and 2010.

The NHS is something to be valued and protected, which is why I support the commitment to properly funding the NHS. Since 2010, the NHS budget has increased every year, and I am happy to say that despite challenging financial circumstances, the annual budget of the NHS is being increased by £33.9 billion in real terms by 2023/24, which has been enshrined in law.

Competition in the NHS should act as a means to an end in improving services for patients, never as an end in itself.

With regard to general practitioners (GPs) offering private services, I recognise this is of deep concern to some people. As independent contractors, GPs are free to provide a variety of other services outside of their contractual requirements, which successive governments have regarded as private matters between the patient and the GP. I am glad that there are strict safeguards within their contracts which prevent GPs charging patients for NHS care, or from using NHS resources to subsidise any private service in which they may be involved.

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**