



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

*New Confident,*

**RE: NHS TEST & TRACE - OUTSOURCING**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of COVID-19 testing, NHS Test & Trace, and outsourcing of these services; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

As part of an unprecedented response to this pandemic, my colleagues in the Department of Health & Social Care have drawn on the expertise and resources of a number of public and private sector partners to support our NHS and social care sector. The Government has been guided by the science throughout, consulting with a range of experts in each field, and has made significant progress in testing capacity and analysis.

Testing and NHS Test & Trace services are being provided through the NHS, and while it is true that providers like Serco and Sitel are working with the public sector to deliver these services, I am confident that these providers will be held to the highest standards to ensure that the best service possible is delivered.

To build the largest diagnostic network in British history requires us to work with both public and private sector partners, including Boston Consulting Group, with the specialist skills and experience we need. Every pound spent is contributing towards our efforts to keep people safe as we ramp up testing capacity beyond 500,000 tests a day.

I am confident that these providers are being held to the highest standards to ensure that the best service possible is being delivered. If it is the case that contract commitments are not met, I am confident that my colleagues in the department will take action against organisations which have received money from taxpayers.

It is a testament to the ingenuity of British businesses that they have been able to adapt existing resources in a time of great need for our country, and I am extremely grateful to all those organisations that have offered their services at this time as part of the national response. All that said, you can be assured that I will certainly continue to monitor this issue extremely closely and I have relayed your concerns.

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**