



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

*See Comment*

**RE: COVID STATUS CERTIFICATES & THE MEDICAL FREEDOM BILL.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of COVID-status certificates and the *Medical Freedom Bill*; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I am incredibly proud of the progress that the UK has made so far vaccinating the population and I am delighted that, as of today, over 41 million people have now received their first dose of one of the vaccines and 29 million have received their second doses. This accounts for over 75 percent of the population, while 50 percent have received both doses. I understand that the Government also remains on track to offer first doses of the vaccines to all adults by the end of July.

As set out in the Government's 'road map' towards easing restrictions, four programmes of work have been established to consider different aspects of how the UK should handle COVID-19 from this summer onwards. One of these is a review into whether COVID-status certification could play a role in reopening our economy, reducing restrictions on social contact and improving safety.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> April, an update was published into the reviews outlined in the 'road map', including the *COVID-Status Certification Review*. This update noted that, even without Government intervention, COVID-status certification is likely to become a feature of our lives until the threat from the pandemic recedes. Other countries are already developing their own certification systems, such as the 'Green Pass' in Israel and the 'digital green certificate' in the European Union. While the review is ongoing, I firmly welcome that the Government has guaranteed to ensure appropriate parliamentary scrutiny, having presented interim findings in Parliament during April.

Of course, COVID-status certificates raise complex ethical and discriminatory issues that would need to be worked through. This is something I know the Government and the Prime Minister are very conscious of and I welcome the fact that the Government is considering these issues fully as part of the review. I understand that the review has so far gathered evidence from clinical and ethical experts, as well as businesses and their representative organisations; in addition, the public call for evidence generated over 50,000 responses representing a wide range of opinions and I hope that you took the opportunity to make yours known.

I am satisfied that steps will be taken to appropriately consider the impact of any certification approach and, if necessary, apply relevant safeguards. As such, I do not feel a *Medical Freedom Bill* like the one you describe is required, although I will ensure your concerns are known to my ministerial colleagues.



Ministers maintain it is right that we rule out no options at this stage. Conclusions and the outcome of the review are expected to be set out shortly in advance of step four of the 'road map'.

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**