

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

*Dear Conifer,*

**RE: WHO PANDEMIC TREATY**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of a potential new international treaty for pandemic preparedness. I have read your comments on this issue with interest.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been one of the greatest challenges to the established international order since the Second World War; a global threat that has required global solutions borne out of global cooperation. It has been immensely heartening to have seen the peoples and nations of the world pull together as they have. I pay tribute to all - everywhere. As in the late 1940s, where, to avert a repeat of the cataclysm of total war, world leaders came together to establish the multilateral system we have today. I think it is reasonably fair to argue that a similar effort is required on the part of world leaders to strengthen preparedness for potential future pandemics.

As such, I welcome the suggestion of the Prime Minister, writing with other world leaders last year, that the international community should commit to producing a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response. I am told that such a treaty would aim to foster greatly enhanced cooperation in order to better protect the UK from the health, social and economic impacts of pandemics.

Discussions are ongoing at the World Health Organisation (WHO) to this end. I know that the UK Government will engage with any such proposals, including at the World Health Assembly this month, with a view to a final outcome that learns the lessons of COVID-19.

Naturally, the Government will not sign up to any treaty that is not in our interests, or which compromises the UK's sovereignty. The Secretary of State for Health & Social Care, the Rt. Hon Sajid Javid MP, has given his explicit assurance in this regard, but I have made your views and reservations known to ministerial colleagues.

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**