

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

17th March 2023

Jean Gaultier

RE: ROAD HAULIERS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about the road haulage sector. I have read your comments with interest.

I fully recognise that this is a challenging time for road hauliers. I have been following the industry's situation closely and listening carefully to the views of hauliers here in the constituency, of which there are several.

I know that my ministerial colleagues communicate with the road haulage industry regularly and have held additional meetings to communicate and engage with proposals that have been brought forward, some of which centre on the recruitment of HGV drivers. In total, the Government has taken 33 proactive actions to address the shortage of HGV drivers worldwide, including streamlining the testing process and increasing the number of weekly HGV tests by 90 percent. I am encouraged that the Government has considered a range of options for supporting training, investing up to £34 million in skills bootcamps to train up to 11,000 more people. An additional 1,000 people are expected to be trained through courses accessed locally.

To support the road haulage sector, the 2023 Budget saw the Chancellor announce that Vehicle Excise Duty for HGVs will remain frozen for 2023-24.

The Government is also committed to increasing driver welfare. HGV drivers will benefit from £20 million of National Highways funding to improve roadside facilities, as part of continued Government action with industry to boost driver welfare and tackle the effects of the global driver shortage in the UK. At the 2021 Autumn Budget, the then Chancellor announced £32.5 million for roadside facilities for HGV drivers on the road. A further £20 million was committed to improve roadside facilities in April 2022 and another £100 million of industry and Government investment in rest areas and roadside support in the form of the HGV parking and driver welfare scheme was announced in November 2022.

As far as I am aware, the Government does not currently plan to introduce a user rebate for hauliers. I will, however, communicate your comments to colleagues to ensure they are aware of your feelings on this matter.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU
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