

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

*Dear Constituent,*

**RE: PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO PROTEST (PUBLIC ORDER ACT, MINIMUM SERVICE LEVELS AND BOYCOTTS)**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about new and proposed legislation on protests and on strikes. I have read your comments with interest.

The *Public Order Act* has been introduced to reduce the impact of protests on people's day-to-day lives. However, I can assure you that the Government is not eroding people's rights, but making sure that highly disruptive protests do not cause misery to the public. It is not acceptable that hard-working people across the UK were seeing their lives brought to a standstill by some activist groups.

Like me, the Government hugely respects and values our public sector workers, and it is committed to trying to avoid prolonged industrial action. However, a balance must be struck between giving workers a fair and reasonable settlement and taking steps to continue to bring down inflation and protect households' budgets. Therefore, the Government is inviting trade unions to meet for honest, constructive conversations, about what is fair and affordable in public sector pay terms, and to discuss the evidence that the Government will be submitting to the independent pay review bodies.

The Government also has a duty to the public to ensure their safety, protect their access to vital public services, and help them go about their daily lives. That is why it has introduced the *Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill* for vital public services, including health, education, fire and rescue, transport, nuclear decommissioning and border security, to maintain critical, and in many cases life-saving, services.

Finally, I understand that the Government in due course intends to bring forward legislation on boycotts, divestment and sanctions, which will stop public bodies from pursuing their own foreign policy agenda with public money. International sanctions should be determined by the UK Government, and ratified by Parliament. This will not affect private organisations or individuals.

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 PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**