

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th July 2023

Dear Catherine,

RE: ARTHRITIS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of support for people with arthritis. I have read your comments with interest.

I can assure you that reducing waiting times for operations required by people with arthritis - including hip and knee replacement surgery - is an urgent priority for the Government. To date, £5.4 billion of funding has been committed to reduce the backlog of operations, including hip and knee replacements. In addition to this, the number of surgical hubs will be increased to deliver more hip and knee replacements in a COVID-secure environment.

NHS England has published a plan for the recovery of elective care in England and launched the 'My Planned Care' platform to ensure that people waiting for treatment have access to information and support in the meantime. It is important that local NHS bodies clearly communicate with people with arthritis on waiting lists for surgery, about when they can expect to be treated, and signpost to information and support available from charities like Versus Arthritis.

The Government recognises that tackling major conditions that cause ill-health - such as arthritis - provides an opportunity to improve the lives of millions of people. That is why a *Major Conditions Strategy* will be developed and published over the next year, to outline how outcomes in six major condition areas will be improved, including arthritis. The Department of Health and Social Care has launched its call for evidence for the *Major Conditions Strategy*; the consultation is now closed, and the findings will be released in due course.

Finally, thank you for your kind invitation to attend the summer drop-in event hosted by Versus Arthritis, held on Monday 3rd July. Unfortunately, owing to prior, longstanding diary commitments, I was unable to attend, although please rest assured that I will continue to follow the issues raised closely.

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

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