



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

27th July 2023

Dear Constituents,

RE: ILLEGAL MIGRATION ACT (PREGNANT ASYLUM SEEKERS)

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about the removal of pregnant asylum seekers. I have read your comments with interest.

I appreciate the concern that people have for female asylum seekers who are in a vulnerable position - however, the Government has been clear that we cannot allow a system which incentivises people, including women and children, to risk their lives and pay people smugglers to come here illegally.

There is a moral imperative to act. This system is neither compassionate nor fair, which is why the *Illegal Migration Act* will end illegal entry as a route to asylum in the UK, breaking the business model of evil people smuggling gangs and restoring fairness in our asylum system. It will ensure anyone arriving via small boat or other dangerous and illegal means will be in scope for detention and being swiftly removed.

I understand that the Government has agreed to preserve the existing 72-hour time limit on the detention of pregnant women for removal. This limit would be extendable to an absolute maximum of one week, provided there is ministerial authorisation in place for the extension.

I can assure you that appropriate healthcare provision will be provided for all those in immigration detention.

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 be 'Tom Pursglove'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE