

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th July 2023

Dear Anthony,

RE: PROCUREMENT BILL – AMENDMENT 44 CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about the *Procurement Bill*. I have read your comments with interest.

From my understanding, the amendment you are referring to is not in fact 44, but amendment 2 to the *Procurement Bill*, which would have made a change to clause 44.

I believe that the Bill already places transparency as a core tenet of the future procurement regime. One of the many benefits of the Bill is to embed transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle, so that the spending of taxpayers' money can be properly scrutinised. This will be achieved by creating an open and transparent system in which everyone will have access to public procurement data. Citizens will be able to scrutinise spending decisions. Suppliers will be able to identify new opportunities to bid and collaborate. Buyers will be able to analyse the market and benchmark their performance against others, for example on their spend with SMEs.

In respect of the direct award of contracts, the Bill enables an increase in transparency and openness in public procurement by including mandated notices for direct awards and extending publication requirements "from planning to termination, including contract performance". The Bill is also very specific in outlining the limited number of circumstances in which it might be necessary to award a contract without competition. Schedule 5 sets out when direct award would be justified, including for the production of a prototype, or reasons of extreme and unavoidable urgency. A Minister of the Crown would have the power to draw up regulations governing the direct award of contracts in order to protect life or public order. These measures are necessary to ensure procurements during an emergency event can be conducted as quickly and transparently as possible.

Ultimately, the procurement regime proposed in the Bill is robust and will lead to a more transparent system, therefore I do not believe that it was necessary to support this specific amendment.

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