

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: BENEFIT SANCTIONS**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about benefit sanctions and the associated Organise campaign. I have read your comments with interest.

While I appreciate your concerns about the application/utilisation of benefit sanctions, I note that conditionality has been a key feature of the benefit system since the formation of the welfare state.

Claimants on work-related benefits, such as Universal Credit, are expected to take responsibility for meeting the conditionality requirements that they have agreed to with their Work Coach, and they will only be sanctioned if they fail to meet these requirements without demonstrating good reason for doing so. Where a claimant on a work-related benefit has a health condition or disability, Work Coaches have the discretion to tailor these requirements to what is reasonable and achievable, taking into consideration the claimant's condition.

If a claimant disagrees with a sanction decision, they can ask for this to be looked at again by way of a mandatory reconsideration. If a claimant further disagrees with the outcome of the mandatory reconsideration, they can raise an appeal for the sanction decision to be looked at by an independent tribunal.

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**