



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: CARER'S ALLOWANCE**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about Carer's Allowance. I have read your comments with interest and will certainly bear your views about the policy in mind, moving forward.

Both the Government and I recognise and appreciate the vital role played by unpaid carers, and I understand that this is an extremely important issue for many carers.

The primary purpose of Carer's Allowance is to provide a measure of financial support for people who give up the opportunity of full-time employment in order to care for a severely disabled person. It must be stressed that it is not a carer's wage, or payment for the services of caring, nor is it intended to replace lost or forgone earnings in their entirety.

The Carer's Allowance earnings limit is not linked to the number of hours worked. Instead, it is set at a level that aims to encourage people to maintain a link with the labour market through part-time work. The earnings limit for Carer's Allowance is a net figure, meaning it takes into account Income Tax, National Insurance contributions, and half of any contributions to an occupational or personal pension, and there are also a number of other deductions which can be made. That means that people can earn significantly more than £139 per week gross and still be eligible for Carer's Allowance.

In April 2023, Carer's Allowance was increased by 10.1 percent, in line with inflation, from £69.70 to £76.75 per week.

I would encourage carers to check their eligibility for additional support, such as Universal Credit. Universal Credit can include an additional amount for carers who provide care of 35 hours or more each week for a severely disabled person. For carers who satisfy the qualifying criteria, an additional amount of £185.86 per month is included in their Universal Credit entitlement. For those receiving Universal Credit, the 55 percent taper rate and any applicable work allowance will help to ensure that people are better off in work.

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**