



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st March 2024

Dear Commitment,

RE: CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY'S REPORT LAUNCH

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of Christians Against Poverty's roundtable discussion. I have read your comments with interest.

Thank you also for your kind invitation to attend Christians Against Poverty's recent event, held on the 7th March 2024. 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.

I would like to assure you that the Government is committed to reducing poverty. Over 2022-23 to 2024-25, the Government will provide cost of living support worth over £104 billion. This includes targeted support to the most vulnerable through Cost of Living Payments, which have been paid to eight million households on eligible means-tested benefits, eight million pensioner households and six million individuals on eligible disability benefits. Additionally, working age benefits - including Universal Credit - will be increased by 6.7 percent in April 2024.

Alongside this, in recognition that work is the best route out of poverty, the Government has taken action to boost employment. The 2023 Spring Budget set out a significant, wide-ranging package of measures that represent an investment of £3.5 billion over five years to boost workforce participation.

Indeed, these measures will be complemented by reforms made to the welfare system. Backed by £2.5 billion of funding, the Government's 'Back to Work Plan' will transform the way people interact with the welfare system, ensuring that it provides a springboard for those capable of 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,
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE