



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

5th April 2024

Dear Constituent,

RE: PLASTIC POLLUTION

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about plastic pollution. I have read your comments with interest.

First, thank you for your kind invitation to attend the 'Youth Empowerment Day' event in Parliament on the 17th April 2024. Unfortunately, owing to prior, longstanding diary commitments, I will be unable to attend, although please rest assured that I will continue to follow the issues raised closely. In the meantime, I wanted to set out what the Government is doing to tackle plastic pollution and I have also offered to help promote the initiative locally.

The 'Resources and Waste Strategy for England' sets out the Government's plans to reduce, reuse, and recycle more plastic and Ministers have committed to working towards all plastic packaging on the market being recyclable or reusable by 2025.

Significant progress has already been made to address plastic pollution, including a ban on microbeads and restricting the supply of plastic straws, plastic drink stirrers, and plastic-stemmed cotton buds. The use of single-use carrier bags in supermarkets has reduced by over 98 percent.

Further, restrictions on a range of single-use plastics, including plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers have now come into force. I understand that England uses 2.7 billion items of single-use cutlery and over 700 million single-use plates per year, but only 10 percent are recycled. This new ban is the next step in cracking down on harmful plastic waste.

Through the *Environment Act 2021*, the Government has set a target to halve residual waste by 2042. This refers to waste that is sent to landfill, put through incineration, or used in energy recovery in the UK or overseas. This is an intentionally broad target, which will include the most environmentally harmful materials like plastics, rather than banning a single type of material and risk producers moving to a different, more harmful material.

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