

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

20th May 2024

Dear Constitute,

RE: CANCER WAITING TIMES

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about waiting times for cancer treatment and care. I have read your comments with interest.

I share your urgency that we reduce the backlog of cancer care that built up during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, the country's endeavour was used to tackle the virus and the Government is committed to applying this same spirit to tackling cancer.

To help reduce waiting times for cancer care, the Government is investing £8 billion by 2025 to help deliver nine million checks, scans, and operations by 2025, and to expand the number of surgical hubs across the country. As part of the 2021 Spending Review, £2.3 billion was committed to expanding Community Diagnostic Centres, which will offer rapid access to clinical tests and life-saving checks closer to home - including a new one in Corby that I campaigned for, and which is set to open in the autumn. These centres have already delivered over 7 million additional checks and tests and are playing an important role in helping to reduce cancer waiting times.

The implementation of the 'Faster Diagnosis Standard' has been instrumental in reducing waiting times, setting a clear, measurable standard for health services, and ensuring a quicker transition to the treatment phase for patients.

Tackling major conditions that cause ill-health - including cancer - provides an opportunity to improve the lives of millions of people. That is why I welcome that a 'Major Conditions Strategy' will be published to outline how outcomes in six major condition areas will be improved, including cancer.

This strategy will allow for a renewed focus on innovative treatments and diagnosing cancer faster to improve outcomes, boosting the cancer workforce, and preventing more cancers from occurring.

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