



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Thursday 9th April 2020

Dear Resident,

During these very difficult and challenging times, I wanted to write as your Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich.

As you may be aware, during this important national fight against COVID-19, I have been given leave by the Government to return to the frontline of the NHS working as a doctor, but I want you to know that I am still here to help you as your local MP. I am in touch with my office on a regular basis, where I am briefed fully and give regular instructions on constituency matters and how to help people locally who may be in need.

Whether you are struggling with your health, finances or adjusting to this new way of life, I know that life is difficult at the moment. It is during times like these that we start to truly appreciate all the services and industries that make our great country work.

My NHS colleagues, including our doctors, nurses and physiotherapists, are on the frontline battling against this invisible enemy. It is obvious how important all our services are in this fight against Coronavirus – our Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Crew and all those serving in our Armed Forces. This list goes on and we are all so grateful.

We also need to remember to thank the unsung heroes in this fight – our refuse and rubbish collectors, cleaners, shop staff, council workers, school workers and teachers and all those caring in the community. These are the people who are increasingly taking extra risks to keep us safe and we should never underestimate the work they do or the sacrifices that they make.

Here in Suffolk we have a great track record of coming together to help those in need and to support each other. In recent weeks, our local councils and community groups have come together with Suffolk County Council to launch **“Home, but not alone”** – a new service connecting local volunteers with those in need of help. Volunteers can sign up via a free app – Tribe Volunteer, and the telephone number for those in genuine need of help is **0800 876 6926**. Lines are staffed from 9am to 5pm days a week.

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Working for the people of Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

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