

DANIEL KAWCZYNSKI MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

30 March 2020

Constituents of Shrewsbury and Atcham

Dear Constituent

### **Joining together to fight COVID-19**

As you know, in the past few years there has been something of a tug-of-war between Shrewsbury and Telford over the provision of A&E services to our county. Important as they are, such issues must take a back seat as we all come together to meet the coronavirus challenge. It is vital that we present the Government with a united front when we lobby to ensure that our NHS Trust gets the essential equipment and support that Shropshire needs.

Our coalition is growing. I am very pleased that my parliamentary colleagues, Owen Paterson and Philip Dunne, have joined with Peter Nutting and Shaun Davies, the leaders of our two councils, along with representatives of both the Trust and local clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). We have already had a very productive 40-minute conference call with Shropshire & Telford Clinical Commissioning Group, where we were updated on the impressive progress ministers have made in expanding critical care capacity by ramping up procurement of ventilators and other equipment, the recruitment of staff, and the creation of new bed places through the establishment of 'Nightingale Hospitals'. However, there remain shortages of crucial protective equipment, especially masks and gloves, as well as Covid-19 tests. These are vital to ensuring not only that front-line NHS staff are kept safe, but to minimise the risk of the virus spreading through our Health Service. My colleagues and I will stay in close contact with Matt Hancock, the Health Secretary, to ensure that our local NHS gets this equipment as soon as possible.

The Government says that a huge additional quantity of basic equipment is now being dispatched to hospitals across the country – rest assured that we shall be monitoring this closely and raising any concerns with the minister at our next weekly conference call. Of course, these shortages are not particular to our area and as MPs we have a duty to seek solutions for the whole country. I for one think that when the immediate crisis has passed, we must look again at our domestic capacity to produce medical PPE, especially the N95 equipment which has been in such short supply in recent weeks. A global pandemic will inevitably strain the global market in such goods – we must be able to make them here in Britain.

I hope that we will make progress over the coming days and weeks, and will endeavour to keep you up to date with any developments. As ever, please remember that the most important thing we can all do at the moment is stay home as much as possible – this reduces the risk of infection, slows the spread of coronavirus, and eases the strain on our NHS

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kaw', followed by a horizontal line.

Daniel Kawczynski MP  
Member of Parliament for Shrewsbury & Atcham

