



The APPG for Radiotherapy

Friday 21st August 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

We urge you to work with your Ministers to ensure that the NHS reacts more quickly to restore cancer services that have been badly disrupted due to the response to Covid. In addition to restoring those services, the NHS must boost them to tackle the back log resulting from Covid induced delays. A range of experts are now predicting that we may well lose more patients to cancer than to Covid itself. We are particularly concerned that the NHS's plan appears to be limited to getting cancer services back to normal by the end of the year and doesn't appear to include provision for a 'boost' to services to tackle the backlog. We share the view that this timescale is far too long. Many cancers can become untreatable in a matter of weeks and we are alarmed at what appears to be a reluctance to accept that there will be a backlog that will need tackling.

The scale and urgency of the problem is illustrated by the BBC Panorama programme on 6th July and the subsequent enormous public support of the #CatchUpWithCancer campaign which was launched by the parents of Kelly Smith, Craig and Mandy Russell, in conjunction with the campaigning group Radiotherapy4Life, following their daughter's tragic death from bowel cancer in June aged just 31 years. Her family feel her life was dramatically cut short by the fact that her cancer treatment was stopped due to Covid.

Their [Change.Org/CatchUpWithCancer](https://www.change.org/p/catch-up-with-cancer) petition received 100,000 supporters within hours and is now fast approaching 210,000 sign ups. It has also resulted in thousands of emails to MPs. For Craig and Mandy, this is about ensuring that we save as many lives as possible.

There are many smart and cost effective solutions being offered by the cancer community and a vast group of MPs working with experts, charities, industry, APPGs and the NHS workforce. Just as one example, the All Party Parliamentary Group for Radiotherapy has produced a 6 point plan to transform and revitalise the radiotherapy sector in a way that would unleash its full potential to help tackle the cancer backlog.

We urge you to intervene and ensure that your Ministers and the NHS urgently work with the cancer community to avoid a post Covid cancer catastrophe.

Yours sincerely,

1. Tim Farron MP (Liberal Democrat for Westmorland and Lonsdale)
2. Grahame Morris MP (Labour for Easington)
3. Sir Graham Brady MP (Conservative for Altrincham and Sale West)
4. Tonia Antoniazzi MP (Labour for Gower)
5. Henry Smith MP (Conservative for Crawley)
6. Dr Dan Poulter MP (Conservative for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich)
7. Rt Hon Emily Thornberry MP (Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury Park)
8. Sharon Hodgson MP (Labour for Washington and Sunderland West)
9. Dr Philippa Whitford MP (Scottish National Party for Central Ayrshire)



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10. John Baron MP (Conservative for Basildon and Billericay)
11. Rosie Cooper MP (Labour for West Lancashire)
12. Tim Loughton MP (Conservative for East Worthing and Shoreham)
13. Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP (Labour for Knowsley)
14. Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP (Labour for Kingston upon Hull North)
15. Kim Johnson MP (Labour for Liverpool Riverside)
16. Ben Lake MP (Plaid Cymru for Ceredigion)
17. Rt Hon Sir Ed Davey MP (Liberal Democrat for Kingston and Surbiton)
18. Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald QC MP (Conservative for North East Hertfordshire)
19. Derek Twigg MP (Labour for Halton)
20. Andrea Jenkyns MP (Conservative for Morley and Outwood)
21. Alex Norris MP (Labour/Co-operative for Nottingham North)
22. Fay Jones MP (Conservative for Brecon and Radnorshire)
23. Sarah Champion MP (Labour for Rotherham)
24. Allan Dorans MP (Scottish National Party for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock)
25. Peter Dowd MP (Labour for Bootle)
26. Sir Mark Hendrick MP (Labour/Co-operative for Preston)
27. Dan Jarvis MBE MP (Labour for Barnsley Central)
28. Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP (Labour for Streatham)
29. Claudia Webbe MP (Labour for Leicester East)
30. Mick Whitley MP (Labour for Birkenhead)
31. Emma Lewell-Buck MP (Labour for South Shields)
32. Dr Caroline Lucas MP (Green Party for Brighton Pavilion)
33. Kenny MacAskill MP (Scottish National Party for East Lothian)
34. Virendra Sharma MP (Labour for Ealing Southall)
35. Lord Rennard (Liberal Democrat Peer)
36. Colum Eastwood MP (Social Democratic and Labour Party for Foyle)
37. Barry Gardiner MP (Labour for Brent North)
38. Drew Hendry MP (Scottish National Party for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey)
39. Sarah Olney MP (Liberal Democrat for Richmond Park)
40. Wendy Chamberlain MP (Liberal Democrat for North East Fife)
41. Daisy Cooper MP (Liberal Democrat for St Albans)
42. Wera Hobhouse MP (Liberal Democrat for Bath)
43. Christine Jardine MP (Liberal Democrat for Edinburgh West)
44. Layla Moran MP (Liberal Democrat for Oxford West and Abingdon)
45. Munira Wilson MP (Liberal Democrat for Twickenham)
46. Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP (Liberal Democrat for Orkney and Shetland)
47. Jamie Stone MP (Liberal Democrat for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross)
48. Kate Hollern MP (Labour for Blackburn)
49. Paula Barker MP (Labour for Liverpool Wavertree)
50. Yvonne Fovargue MP (Labour for Makerfield)
51. Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP (Labour for Hackney North and Stoke Newington)
52. Tahir Ali MP (Labour for Birmingham, Hall Green)
53. Judith Cummins MP (Labour for Bradford South)
54. Geraint Davies MP (Labour/Co-operative for Swansea West)
55. Kate Osborne MP (Labour for Jarrow)



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56. Mohammad Yasin MP (Labour for Bedford)
57. Chris Bryant MP (Labour for Rhondda)
58. Ian Byrne MP (Labour for Liverpool West Derby)
59. Ian Lavery MP (Labour for Wansbeck)
60. Tony Lloyd MP (Labour for Rochdale)
61. Rebecca Long Bailey MP (Labour for Salford and Eccles)
62. Siobhain McDonagh MP (Labour for Mitcham and Morden)
63. Ian Mearns MP (Labour for Gateshead)
64. Andy Slaughter MP (Labour for Hammersmith)
65. Rt Hon John Spellar MP (Labour for Warley)
66. Zarah Sultana MP (Labour for Coventry South)
67. Jack Dromey MP (Labour for Birmingham, Erdington)
68. Mike Hill MP (Labour for Hartlepool)
69. Barbara Keeley MP (Labour for Worsley and Eccles South)
70. Taiwo Owatemi MP (Labour for Coventry North West)
71. Rachael Maskell MP (Labour/Co-operative for York Central)
72. Alex Cunningham MP (Labour for Stockton North)
73. Tanmanjeet Singh Dhese MP (Labour for Slough)
74. Rt Hon John Healey MP (Labour for Wentworth and Dearne)
75. Rachel Hopkins MP (Labour for Luton South)
76. Darren Jones MP (Labour for Bristol North West)
77. Rt Hon Kevan Jones MP (Labour for North Durham)
78. Ruth Jones MP (Labour for Newport West)
79. Afzal Khan CBE MP (Labour for Manchester Gorton)
80. Stephen Morgan MP (Labour for Portsmouth South)
81. Marie Rimmer CBE MP (Labour for St Helens South and Whiston)
82. Rt Hon Valerie Vaz MP (Labour for Walsall South)
83. Matt Western MP (Labour for Warwick and Leamington)
84. Daniel Zeichner MP (Labour for Cambridge)
85. Vicky Foxcroft MP (Labour for Lewisham Deptford)
86. Mary Foy MP (Labour for City of Durham)
87. Lilian Greenwood MP (Labour for Nottingham South)
88. Clive Lewis MP (Labour for Norwich South)
89. Kerry McCarthy MP (Labour for Bristol East)
90. Navendu Mishra MP (Labour for Stockport)
91. Barry Sheerman MP (Labour/Co-operative for Huddersfield)
92. Tulip Siddiq MP (Labour for Hampstead and Kilburn)
93. Cat Smith MP (Labour for Lancaster and Fleetwood)
94. Catherine McKinnell MP (Labour for Newcastle upon Tyne North)
95. Alex Davies-Jones MP (Labour for Pontypridd)
96. Martyn Day MP (Scottish National Party for Linlithgow and East Falkirk)
97. Marsha De Cordova MP (Labour for Battersea)
98. Stephen Kinnock MP (Labour for Aberavon)
99. Jim Shannon MP (DUP for Strangford)
100. Richard Burgeon MP (Labour for Leeds East)
101. Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP (Labour for Islington North)
102. Apsana Begum MP (Labour for Poplar and Limehouse)



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- 103. Dawn Butler MP (Labour for Brent Central)
- 104. Imran Hussein MP (Labour MP for Bradford East)
- 105. Ian Paisley MP (DUP MP for North Antrim)
- 106. Carla Lockhart MP (DUP MP for Upper Bann)
- 107. Paul Girvan MP (DUP MP for South Antrim)