



The APPG for Radiotherapy

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Tim Farron MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

13 November 2020

RE: Catch Up With Cancer and boosting cancer services at the Comprehensive Spending Review to tackle the cancer treatment and diagnostic backlog

Dear Secretary of State,

We ask that you and your ministerial colleagues make urgent representations to the Treasury to ensure that the forthcoming Government Spending Review provides solutions to tackle the Covid induced cancer backlog. Experts warn that the full cancer backlog is likely to be over 100,000 patients and catching up will require services to operate at 120% pre-Covid capacity for two years. This extra resource level cannot be achieved by simply exhorting staff to just 'work harder' on top of the heroic amount of work they are already putting in. There is a clear and urgent need for investment. Put starkly, we are concerned that without investment into the capacity of services, we will never be able to catch up and so fail to prevent thousands of unnecessary deaths to cancer.

To our knowledge, current NHS plans do not include the resources that are essential to recover from the backlog. The #CatchUpWithCancer campaign are calling for urgent investment in treatment and diagnostics. There are readily available digital and technology innovations, that could deliver the 'super-boost' our cancer fighting capacity needs. All that is required is the investment to secure them. We are sure you are aware of the scale of public concern around this issue. The family who co-founded the #CatchUpWithCancer campaign have a petition with over 370,000 signees, many of whom have left heartfelt comments. We are sure you will share their view that everything that can be done, to tackle this backlog, should be done.

There are smart and cost-effective solutions which would facilitate a rapid increase in capacity in cancer services that could be rolled out immediately. As one example, radiotherapy can, with the right investment, play an even greater role in tackling the backlog. It can also be delivered safely during future waves of the pandemic. It is surprisingly cost effective too, typically curing patients for as little as £5-7K. The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Radiotherapy have a 6 point plan to quickly unleash the potential of radiotherapy to help deal with the backlog. As well as having the added benefit of providing the country with the world class radiotherapy sector that patients deserve. This investment will save lives, save money, is low risk/high return and will help start the digital and technical revolution you have been advocating.

We stand ready to work with you and your officials to help address this avoidable crisis,

Yours sincerely

Chair of the APPG for Radiotherapy, Tim Farron MP

Grahame Morris MP (Labour, Easington)
Henry Smith MP (Conservative, Crawley)



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Tonia Antoniazzi MP (Labour, Gower)
Dr Dan Poulter MP (Conservative, Central Suffolk and North Ipswich)
Sir David Amess MP (Conservative, Southend West)
Rt Hon Sammy Wilson MP (Democratic Unionist Party, East Antrim)
James Grundy MP (Conservative, Leigh)
Catherine McKinnell MP (Labour, Newcastle upon Tyne North)
Ben Lake MP (Plaid Cymru, Ceredigion)
Rt Hon John McDonnell MP (Labour, Hayes and Harlington)
John Baron MP (Conservative, Basildon and Billericay)
Lord Balfe (Conservative)
Jamie Stone MP (Liberal Democrat, Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross)
Mick Whitley MP (Labour, Birkenhead)
Mohammad Yasin MP (Labour, Bedford)
Layla Moran MP (Liberal Democrat, Oxford West and Abingdon)
Ian Paisley MP (Democratic Unionist Party, North Antrim)
Jim Shannon MP (Democratic Unionist Party, Strangford)
Dr Lisa Cameron MP (Scottish National Party, East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow)
Paula Barker MP (Labour, Liverpool Wavertree)
Kenny MacAskill MP (Scottish National Party, East Lothian)
Derek Twigg MP (Labour, Halton)
Ian Byrne MP (Labour, Liverpool West Derby)
Dan Carden MP (Labour, Liverpool Walton)
Allan Dorans MP (Scottish National Party, Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock)
Kate Osborne MP (Labour, Jarrow)
Steven Bonnar MP (Scottish National Party, Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill)
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP (Labour, Streatham)
Dr Philippa Whitford MP (Scottish National Party, Central Ayrshire)
Neale Hanvey MP (Scottish National Party, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath)
Dr Caroline Lucas MP (Green Party, Brighton Pavilion)
Carol Monaghan MP (Scottish National Party, Glasgow North West)
Clive Lewis MP (Labour, Norwich South)
Rosie Cooper MP (Labour, West Lancashire)
Carla Lockhart MP (Democratic Unionist Party, Upper Bann)
Sarah Olney MP (Liberal Democrat, Richmond Park)
Kate Osamor MP (Labour/Co-operative, Edmonton)
Navendu Mishra MP (Labour, Stockport)
Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP (Labour, Islington North)
Kim Johnson MP (Labour, Liverpool Riverside)
Andy Slaughter MP (Labour, Hammersmith)
Ian Mearns MP (Labour, Gateshead)
Mike Hill MP (Labour, Hartlepool)
Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP (Labour, Knowsley)
Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP (Labour/Co-operative, Brighton Kemptown)
Ian Lavery MP (Labour, Wansbeck)
Virendra Sharma MP (Labour, Ealing Southall)
Rebecca Long Bailey MP (Labour, Salford and Eccles)
Emma Lewell-Buck MP (Labour, South Shields)
Claire Hanna MP (Social Democratic and Labour Party, Belfast South)
Mary Foy MP (Labour, City of Durham)
Clive Betts MP (Labour, Sheffield South East)
Mike Hill MP (Labour, Hartlepool)
Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP (Liberal Democrat, Orkney and Shetland)



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Wendy Chamerlain MP (Liberal Democrat, North East Fife)

Rt Hon Ed Davey MP (Liberal Democrat, Kingston and Surbiton)

Daisy Cooper MP (Liberal Democrat, St Albans)

Wera Hobhouse MP (Liberal Democrat, Bath)

Christine Jardine MP (Liberal Democrat, Edinburgh West)

Munira Wilson MP (Liberal Democrat, Twickenham)