



# The APPG for Radiotherapy

Sir Simon Stevens  
Chief Executive  
NHS England

1 May 2020

Dear Sir Simon,

I write as a result of an answer given at today's hearing of the Health & Social Care Select Committee by Dame Cally Palmer in response to a question about radiotherapy posed by Rosie Cooper MP.

The question was prompted by the results of a recent survey of the radiotherapy sector carried out by our secretariat organisation, the charity Action Radiotherapy. A summary of the evidence submitted by the APPG for radiotherapy as well as the Action Radiotherapy survey is attached together with a text summary of the committee questions and answers. I have the greatest respect for Dame Cally and do accept that diagnostics too warrant attention. However, I hope you might agree that her answer is so completely and dramatically out of step with the survey findings as to warrant urgent consideration. The survey findings are stark and extremely concerning.

I feel I should add that myself and my APPG colleagues have been highlighting serious issues with the commissioning and delivery of radiotherapy for a number of years, so the survey findings are not a surprise to us. In addition to the specific concerns raised, we feel that the country is missing a major opportunity to minimise potential unnecessary cancer deaths caused by the understandable focus on fighting Covid-19 by boosting radiotherapy services.

My earnest request is that you facilitate a meeting between our officers and expert advisers and Dame Cally so that we can first-hand set out the scale of the problems and highlight potential solutions.

Yours,

Tim Farron MP  
Chair APPG for Radiotherapy

Grahame Morris MP  
Vice -chair APPG for Radiotherapy

CC: Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock & Minister of State for Health, Edward Argar