



**Tim Farron MP**  
Member of Parliament for Westmorland and Lonsdale  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

The Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

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Our Ref: TF16122022

Dear Chancellor,

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Radiotherapy to ask if you would be willing to facilitate a meeting between the APPG and your senior Treasury health team.

Sadly, since the February 2022 Health and Social Care report, the situation on the front line has worsened considerably. There is an acute crisis in radiotherapy which means the service is unable to meet the current treatment capacity challenges. The cost-effectiveness of radiotherapy is one of its standout features – this is particularly important at a time when spending pressures are so great.

Radiotherapy is internationally recognised as the ‘go to’ solution to tackle the cancer backlog, including by Lancet Oncology. It is needed in 50 percent of cancer patients’ treatment, and in 40 percent of cancer cures.

Despite its many advantages, radiotherapy has been historically overlooked and underfunded. Radiotherapy receives just 5 percent of the cancer budget and, as a result, only 27 percent of UK cancer patients receive radiotherapy. Too many NHS trusts are having to use machines older than the 10-year maximum lifespan. Now, there is significant concern among clinicians that investment in radiotherapy will not even feature in the upcoming 10-year cancer plan.

During your time as Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee, you rightly highlighted the scale of the healthcare backlogs and the devastating impact on cancer services. Warnings from frontline clinicians are clear. The record breaking waits for treatment and unsolved cancer backlog feel like a ‘watershed’ moment for cancer. The urgency is underlined by international research that shows for every four weeks of delay in treatment, the chances of survival for cancer patients can drop by 10 percent.

It is important that the Government expands treatment capacity to bring down these waiting times. Our current costings for this support are less than £300M a year over three years, to transform a service which treats over 100,000 cancer patients a year: that is just £3K per patient.

Radiotherapy presents a real opportunity and the APPG for Radiotherapy would be very grateful if we could meet with your senior Treasury health team to discuss this in more detail. I look forward to working with you and your team for the benefits of radiotherapy and cancer services and the patients they treat.

Yours Sincerely,

Tim Farron MP  
**Chair of the APPG for Radiotherapy**

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