



**Tim Farron MP**

MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale  
House of Commons, Westminster, SW1A 0AA

**Sajid Javid MP**

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing following an urgent summit of cancer clinicians, patients, and parliamentarians on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December to ask that you meet with us to discuss the growing cancer backlog, and so we can update you on the impact of Omicron on cancer care.

The COVID-induced cancer backlog is an ever-worsening national health crisis and the situation continues to escalate and threaten more and more lives as the pandemic continues. Cancer experts warn that the crisis is on course to exceed the worst outcome predicted by the National Audit Office of 60,000 missing cancer patients. Without drastic action, the situation will become unrecoverable, and tens of thousands of lives will be needlessly lost.

Cancer treatment professionals have a range of appropriate solutions, but they need the backing and resources of NHS England and the Government to make these a reality. Technology-driven and COVID-safe treatments, like radiotherapy, can provide immediate solutions and do much more to fight the backlog if they received the right financial investment.

We understand that you regularly and rightly rely on insight and advice from the NHS. However, we implore you to reach beyond your existing network and meet with a delegation of expert and front-line staff who took part in the cancer summit. We were joined by King's College London's Professor of Cancer, the Chair of Radiotherapy UK,

the Institute of Cancer Research, and the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM), amongst others.

There is genuine frustration shared by professionals that so much more can, and should, be done, and that ideas and solutions are not making their way through existing channels. We are aware you will have a huge number of competing priorities, but by meeting we can support you and your team in tackling this urgent cancer backlog crisis.

Yours,

**Tim Farron MP**

Chair of the APPG for Radiotherapy

**Grahame Morris MP**

Vice Chair of the Cancer APPG

**Henry Smith MP**

Chair of the Blood Cancer APPG