

Dear Tim Farron MP
Tonia Antoniazzi MP
Dr Lisa Cameron MP

Firstly thank you for allowing us the opportunity to respond in relation to the Consultation: Solutions to the COVID induced cancer backlog. I can confirm that AXREM support the work of all three APPG's and we believe that our members technologies are key in helping to tackle the cancer backlog. We agree that in order to tackle this crisis more investment in radiotherapy technology is necessary, we know compared to other European countries that the UK has less equipment per million population. There is also a need to ensure that the equipment is distributed closer to patients, ensuring that patients do not have to travel long distances every day, for many weeks, to access their treatment. New radiotherapy technologies mean, higher efficiency, higher doses to the target accurately delivered, less dose to critical organs, less invasive and more patient friendly treatments.

The COVID challenge has highlighted radiotherapy's unique role in cancer treatment. Underlying challenges for radiotherapy still remain including a lag in diagnosis of early stage and more treatable disease, something made worse during COVID.

A strain on hospital capital budgets has often stalled replacement of older radiotherapy equipment making ring fenced, centralised funding a clear priority now to deal with a growing, unmet need. There are a significant number of Linear accelerators treating patients that are older than ten years old. Ten years is the recognised timeframe to replace radiotherapy equipment with newer, more modern, efficient, reliable and technologically advanced equipment.

Advanced radiotherapy treatment should be accessible by all patients that could benefit, but data shows this is still not uniform across the country. Selective expansion of services, upskilling the workforce and effective deployment of innovative technology in radiotherapy networks are needed. More flexible, collaborative and effective practice to drive better clinical outcomes for UK patients is achievable, but requires higher than current levels of investment in radiotherapy.

Best practice and personalised radiotherapy also requires investment and funding in expanded IT infrastructure, innovative AI based planning and imaging tools, peer review support and the widespread adoption of patient reported outcomes.

Modern, advanced treatments requiring fewer hospital visits have necessarily been accelerated during COVID and this more effective approach for patients needs to be maintained, funded and expanded.

We are currently finalising an AXREM Radiotherapy Manifesto which we are hoping to publish in the next few weeks. This will I am sure align with the work being done in particular with the work of the APPG for Radiotherapy, and our manifesto will be raising the issues of:

- Recognition of the health cost benefit to the NHS and patients FOR radiotherapy treatment
- Recognition of the clinical effectiveness of radiotherapy
- Improved access to radiotherapy for patients in both rural and urban areas
- Investment in innovative technology to improve outcomes - this needs to be ringfenced centralized funding.
- The support of focused clinical evaluation
- The need for a full review of the tariffs for radiotherapy based on the whole treatment, one which reflects new ways of treating

- Establishing clear funding models to support new IT and software support tools within NHS radiotherapy networks

We will of course share our manifesto as soon as this is published and would welcome engagement with the APPG's to see how we can assist in tackling the problems collaboratively.

The AXREM members as Industry partners to the NHS, continue to inform and advise NHSE of our product roadmaps so as to inform of NHS investment requirements in the future. AXREM members will be keen to continue this support and possibly make this information available to a wider audience.

AXREM

AXREM is the UK trade association representing the interests of suppliers of diagnostic medical imaging, radiotherapy, healthcare IT and care equipment in the UK. AXREM mem[1]bers supply most diagnostic medical imaging and Radiotherapy equipment installed in UK hospitals. In doing so, our member companies and their employees work side by side with Radiologists, Radiographers and Practitioners, Oncologists and a wide range of healthcare professionals in delivering healthcare to patients using our technologies.

If we can be of any further assistance please do let me know.

With kind regards