

STAND WITH THE NHS AGAINST CANCER



Dear Prime Minister,

An opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder against cancer

The Government target to diagnose 75% of cancers at an early stage by 2028 could save thousands of lives. But to do this we need more staff to carry out and interpret diagnostic tests. **We need staff to save lives.**

Right now, more than 1 in 10 NHS diagnostic posts are unfilled. By 2035 there will be over half a million new cancer cases each year in the UK, equivalent to one new case every minute. Thousands more staff will be needed in the future to diagnose, treat and improve cancer survival in this country.

Too few staff mean people affected by cancer today are stuck, waiting in a diagnostic bottle neck. Yet we know the sooner cancer is diagnosed, the sooner it can be treated and the greater the chance of survival.

We need a long-term, fully-funded plan for the cancer workforce, so the NHS can meet these challenges, diagnose cancer earlier and provide patients with the best treatment. We need staff to save lives.

It has been four years since the Government first committed to producing a cancer workforce plan. Since then some 1,440,000 people have been diagnosed with cancer in the UK. The cancer workforce plan is a vital piece of the cancer puzzle, a key element to beating cancer sooner. **Without this plan, workforce shortages risk undermining the £20.5 billion investment in the NHS and the ambitions of Long Term Plan.**

It's in the hands of the Government to make sure we have enough cancer staff so anyone with cancer has the best chance of survival. That's why I'm asking for a fully-funded plan for the cancer workforce that will address the shortages in our NHS right now, as well as planning for the future with cancer patients at its heart.

I'm standing shoulder to shoulder with our NHS to make sure every patient receives the best diagnosis, the best treatment and the best care, no matter where they live. We need staff to save lives. Together, we will beat cancer.

If you are an MP and would like to add your name to this pledge, please email publicaffairs@cancer.org.uk

