

16 October 2025

The Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP

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

**Together we are
beating cancer**

Cancer Research UK
2 Redman Place
London
E20 1JQ
United Kingdom

Dear Wes Streeting,

A once in a decade opportunity.

We welcome your commitment to a National Cancer Plan – a once in a decade opportunity to transform cancer survival in England.

Nearly 1 in 2 of us will get cancer in our lifetimes, and across England, cancer cases are increasing, patients face unacceptable waits and unequal access to treatment.

In 2024 alone, 74,000 people in England were not treated on time for cancer.

Behind each number is a real person affected by cancer. Partners holding hands waiting for news. Friends missing at birthdays. Parents up late worrying.

People affected by cancer deserve better. They need better.

You have the opportunity to be bold and to make the National Cancer Plan the turning point for cancer we need.

The National Cancer Plan must commit to:

- diagnose more cancers earlier
- address inequalities in access to treatment
- build an NHS powered by research and innovation
- reduce smoking rates
- meet all cancer waiting times targets by July 2029.

A plan committed to delivering the change needed for people affected by cancer now and in the future.

You can make this vision a reality.

That's why we're calling on you to ensure the plan has the dedicated funding to fulfil its commitments and is backed by clear leadership and accountability to ensure it can meet the scale of the challenge that faces us.

Secretary of State, you committed to “unleash Britain’s potential as a world leader in saving lives”, and to “build the healthy society needed for a healthy economy”. These are aims we share. There is no time to waste.

Yours sincerely,

Cancer Research UK

Joined by:

Alistair James

Adele Roberts

Alex Brooker

Amy Conroy

Carol Vorderman

Alison Hammond

Dame Zandra Rhodes

Dianne Buswell

Chris Hughes

Hayley Tamaddon

Jacqueline Boatswain

Ellie Taylor

Kanya King

Kate Holderness

Jim Chapman

Katya Jones

Kola Bokinni

Katie Piper

Leanne Quigley

Liam MacDevitt

Larry Lamb

Peter Stefanovic

Dr Amir Khan

Mel Schilling

Rebecca-Lucy Taylor

Will Poulter

Dr Hilary Jones

Signed by 35,054 supporters