

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.**

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were more than 1 in 10 NHS diagnostic posts unfilled. The pandemic has only made this worse. 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.

Millions of people are stuck in a queue for cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment, whilst personnel shortages have left staff stressed and services stretched to meet patient needs. Yet we know the sooner cancer is diagnosed, the sooner it can be treated and the greater the chance of survival.

The NHS People Plan 2020/21 states that more details on expanding the workforce in the longer term will be published once the government has clarified the available budget in the next Comprehensive Spending Review. **The Government must now invest at the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review** in our NHS and rebuild the NHS cancer workforce.

The Comprehensive Spending Review is a key chance to save lives through diagnosing more cancers early and dramatically improving survival.

I ask that you grasp this opportunity and ensure the necessary long-term funding is provided to help us achieve this.

Signed:

