

Dear Sirs,

Drug appraisal and funding systems are failing cancer patients

The establishment of an additional Cancer Drugs Fund was a clear sign that the current system for the effective and efficient commissioning of cancer drugs in England was failing to achieve its objectives. Now even this additional pot is crumbling under demand and the high cost of cancer drugs, and the knee-jerk reaction has been to save money by re-evaluating the availability of these drugs, regardless of need. The harsh truth is that cancer patients are paying the price for a system in meltdown. We refuse to tolerate such an appalling situation.

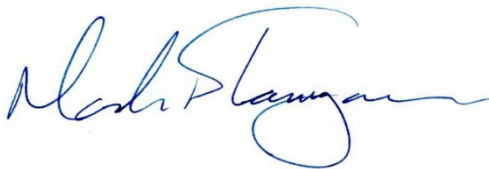
The number of people living with cancer is predicted to reach a record level this year in the UK. A long-term plan, for more sustainable and effective drug funding and appraisal systems in all parts of the UK is urgently required. Only this way, with the full cooperation of manufacturers, will the health service be able to cope with demand and meet the needs of people affected by cancer.

Cancer charities are uniting behind this common goal and will be working closely with NHS England, the Department of Health, NICE and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) over the coming months to develop a better process for commissioning cancer drugs. We will not rest until we get the system that is right for cancer patients now and in the future.

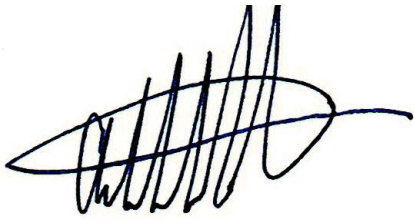
Yours faithfully,



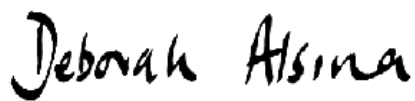
Owen Sharp, Chief Executive, Prostate Cancer UK



Mark Flannagan, Chief Executive, Beating Bowel Cancer



Andrew Wilson, Chief Executive, Rarer Cancers Foundation



Deborah Alsina, Chief Executive, Bowel Cancer UK



Chris Askew, Chief Executive, Breakthrough Breast Cancer



Baroness Delyth Morgan, Chief Executive Officer, Breast Cancer Campaign

Samia al Qadhi



Samia al Qadhi, Chief Executive, Breast Cancer Care

Maggie Wilcox



Maggie Wilcox, President, Independent Cancer Patients Voice

Nick Turkentine

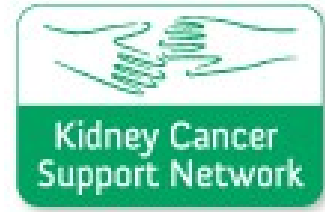


Nick Turkentine, Chief Executive, James Whale Fund for Kidney Cancer

Robert Music



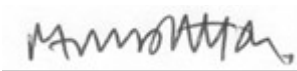
Robert Music, Chief Executive, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust



Rose Woodward, Founder, Kidney Cancer Support Network



Monica Izmajlowicz, Chief Executive, Leukaemia Care



Roger Wotton, Hon. Chairman, Tackle Prostate Cancer



Lindsey Bennister, Chief Executive, Sarcoma UK

J Fox



Jesme Fox, Medical Director, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation