

JOHN BARON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st April 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

One Year Cancer Survival Rates – Sent to all Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Officers

We write to offer our support in your objective of improving the one year cancer survival rates of your Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and to invite you to our Parliamentary meetings and Britain Against Cancer (BAC) conference in December – the largest gathering of the cancer community in the UK.

You will be aware that, after a long campaign by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer (APPGC) and the wider 'cancer community', since April 2015 CCGs have been held accountable by NHS England for their individual one-year figures – reflecting the APPGC's view that early diagnosis is cancer's 'magic key', especially if we are to make progress in such areas as rarer cancers. The recent NHS reforms enable CCGs to promote initiatives to improve earlier diagnosis which are tailored to their local populations – these could include better diagnostics at Primary Care, more symptom awareness campaigns, and improved screening programmes.

We were pleased to see that part of the £200m Cancer Transformation Fund, announced by Simon Stevens in December, was earmarked for Cancer Alliances to deliver initiatives in early diagnosis, and look forward to monitoring the impact of these initiatives as they work with CCGs on one year survival, and on other areas.

You will also be acutely aware of the task in hand. Our survival rates remain well behind comparable international figures. Latest figures show the one year survival rate in Sweden is 81%, which compares to 70.4% for England – equating to a difference of thousands of extra deaths within the year of diagnosis. Meanwhile, the latest CCG year-on-year average figure shows only a 0.8% improvement, with a 9.8% variation between the best- and worst-performing CCGs. Furthermore, one in five cancers continue to be first diagnosed via an emergency presentation. A similar picture of lower survival rates emerges from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Further to our successful campaign, the APPGC's annual Summer Reception last year welcomed the 20 CCGs which had most improved their one-year survival rates – we intend to make this Awards ceremony a regular fixture. Meanwhile, the APPGC will continue to highlight the one year figures at our annual BAC conference on 5th December, in meetings with Ministers and the NHS, and in the Houses of Parliament. The APPGC is joined in this endeavour by all the other cancer-specific APPGs, which the APPGC brings together in regular meetings.

We acknowledge CCGs do not have responsibility for broad national issues, such as the workforce, which we are ourselves raising with Government. However, CCGs do have an essential role to improve the situation and, together with NHS England, Public Health England, and the Department of Health, we are available to assist as necessary.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

John Baron MP (*Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer*)

Co-signatories:

Nic Dakin MP
Baroness Harris of Richmond
Ben Howlett MP
Danny Kinahan MP
Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan

Mark Durkan MP
Rebecca Harris MP
Rt Hon George Howarth MP
David Mackintosh MP
Henry Smith MP

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff
Sharon Hodgson MP
Bishop James of Carlisle
Sheryll Murray MP
Craig Tracey MP

David Mackintosh MP

Derek Twigg MP

Lord Wood of Anfield

Deborah Alsina MBE

Chief Executive, Bowel Cancer UK

Lindsey Bennister

Chief Executive, Sarcoma UK

Roger Brown

Patient Trustee, WMUK

Paula Chadwick

Chief Executive, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation

Siobhan Dunn

Chief Executive, Teenage Cancer Trust

David Innes

Chair, CLL Support Association

Annwen Jones

Chief Executive, Target Ovarian Cancer

Diana Jupp

Chief Executive, Bloodwise

Sir Harpal Kumar

Chief Executive, Cancer Research UK

Sarah Lindsell

Chief Executive, The Brain Tumour Charity

Mimi McCord

Chairman Trustee and Director, Heartburn Cancer UK

Baroness Morgan

Chief Executive, Breast Cancer Now

Jonathan Pearce

Chief Executive, Lymphoma Association

Lynda Thomas

Chief Executive, Macmillan Cancer Support

Nick Turkentine

Chief Operating Officer, Kidney Cancer UK

Penny Woods

Chief Executive, British Lung Foundation

GIST

Kidney Cancer Support Network

The Pelvic Radiation Disease Association

British Thyroid Foundation

Louise Bayne

Chief Executive, Ovacom

Henny Braund

Chief Executive, Anthony Nolan

Chris Carrigan

Patient Advocate, useMYdata

Professor Frank Chinegwundoh MBE

Chairman, Cancer Black Care

Sue Farrington-Smith MBE

Chief Executive, Brain Tumour Research

Monica Izmajlowicz

Chief Executive, Leukaemia Care

Will Jones

Chief Executive, Brainstrust

Natalie Kelly

Chief Executive, CoppaFeel!

Kate Lee

Chief Executive, CLIC Sargent

Jane Lyons

Chief Executive, Cancer52

Helen Morement

Founder and Chief Executive, AMMF

Debra Parry

Co-founder, Action on Womb Cancer and Womb Cancer Info

Katherine Taylor

Chief Executive, Ovarian Cancer Action

Martin Tod

Chief Executive, Men's Health Forum

Maggie Wilcox

President, on behalf of Independent Cancer Patients' Voice

Roger Wotton

Chairman, Tackle Prostate Cancer

Action Against Heartburn

Thyroid Cancer Support Group Wales

My Name is Not Cancer

The Tom Bowdidge Foundation

cc. David Mowatt MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Community Health and Care
Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England
Cally Palmer, National Cancer Director, NHS England
Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive, Public Health England

Chief Executive

NHS Airedale, Wharfedale And Craven CCG

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