



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: CANCER TREATMENT**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of cancer treatment; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

Let me assure you that I share the commitment of the campaign to see waiting lists for cancer treatment and care significantly reduced over the next few years.

Over the last year, the Government has provided funding to help recover cancer services, and a plan that outlines how that funding will be spent effectively.

The Government is investing £8 billion to 2025 to help deliver nine million checks, scans, and operations by 2025, and expand the number of surgical hubs across the country.

Further, as part of the 2021 Spending Review, £2.3 billion was committed to expand Community Diagnostic Centres, which will offer rapid access to clinical tests and life-saving checks closer to home. These centres have already delivered over 1.7 million additional checks and tests and will play an important role in helping to reduce waiting times.

During the pandemic, the country's endeavour was used to tackle the virus and the Government is committed to applying this same spirit to tackling cancer. A '10-Year Cancer Plan' is currently being developed, with the ambition that Britain is the best country in Europe for cancer care. This plan will allow for a renewed focus on innovative treatments and diagnosing cancer earlier to improve outcomes, boosting the cancer workforce, and preventing more cancers from occurring.

Through the 'NHS Long Term Plan', an additional £32 million was provided for radiotherapy equipment in 2021/22, ensuring that approximately 100 radiotherapy treatment machines could be replaced or upgraded. Reinforced by £6 billion of capital investment in the 2021 Spending Review, the NHS is gradually reducing the number of linear accelerators aged ten years or over.

It is right that this funding comes with high expectations for reducing cancer waiting times. By March 2024, the NHS has set an ambition for 75 percent of patients who have been urgently referred by their GP for suspected cancer to be diagnosed, or have cancer ruled out, within 28 days.

In the meantime, I also understand that payment arrangements for radiotherapy are being reviewed to ensure providers can increase access to new treatments and upgrade and replace equipment. These arrangements are expected to be in place from April 2023.



Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tom Pursglove', with a horizontal line underneath.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**