



Craig Whittaker MP

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IMPROVING CANCER OUTCOMES

Thank you very much for contacting me about improving outcomes for cancer sufferers, I can assure you that this is a major priority for the Government.

I am encouraged that UK cancer survival rates have never been higher, however, there is still more to be done.

The Government is working with the NHS, charities and patient groups to deliver the cancer strategy developed by the independent Cancer Taskforce. It has committed to ensuring that by 2020, everyone urgently referred with a suspicion of cancer will receive either a definitive diagnosis or the all-clear within four weeks. The Government is supporting this by investing up to £300 million a year by 2020 to increase diagnostic capacity, along with a national training programme for an additional 200 staff with the skills and expertise to carry out endoscopy tests by 2018. NHS England has also announced a £130 million fund to modernise radiotherapy across England.

Early diagnosis of cancer is key and that is why the Government has run a series of *Be Clear on Cancer* campaigns in order to raise public awareness of the symptoms of cancer.

I am pleased to note that the Government is working closely with highly-regarded stakeholders in order to fulfil its ambition of achieving world-class cancer outcomes. Health Education England is developing a cancer workforce strategy, in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, amongst others, to ensure that all cancer patients receive access to specialist nursing staff throughout the course of their treatment and recovery.

The Government remains committed to the £1.2 billion Cancer Drugs Fund which has helped over 95,000 people to access the life-extending drugs they need.

I support the Government's commitment to increase NHS spending in England by a minimum of £8 billion in real terms over the next five years which will enable the NHS to fund its own plan for the future, the *Five Year Forward View*. This will also ensure that by 2020, everyone will be able to access GP services at evenings and weekends.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP