



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

February 2018

Dear Constituent,

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.

I would like to assure you that the NHS is making every effort to tackle all cancers. I commend the great efforts which have been made to raise awareness of and tackle cancers which affect men and boys. The NHS is working hard to improve services for teenagers and young adults in line with the recommendations set out in the independent Cancer Taskforce report, recognising the unique medical arrangements needed by young people with cancer. The National Institute for Cancer Research funds a wide range of research on cancer, including male cancers, such as prostate cancer, and spent £142 million on cancer research in 2015/16.

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.

The Government is also 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.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**