



# The APPG for Radiotherapy

Dear Secretary of State for Health & Social Care,

We write to request that you agree to an urgent meeting with the officers of our two respective APPGs to address what we believe is an unfolding crisis relating to unavoidable cancer deaths resulting from the understandable focus of NHS resources on the Covid-19 pandemic. There is now widespread expert comment and feedback from 'on the ground' that we are at serious risk of losing many tens of thousands of patients to cancer who would, under normal circumstances, survive. We also believe that a very significant proportion of these cancer deaths can be avoided without detriment to the overall Covid-19 response, primarily by boosting the radiotherapy service. We feel we have to highlight that this crisis is not purely due to a reluctance of cancer patients to come forward as seemed to be the focus of your response when questioned at the recent virtual Health & Social Care Committee. Rather, there are serious issues relating to guidelines from NICE and the NHS combined with continuing constraints on the radiotherapy sector which seem not to have been urgently revised following the realisation, as you mentioned at health questions today (22<sup>nd</sup>), that there is now sufficient NHS capacity. We hope that you will be agreeable to the suggested meeting at which our officers will be able to set out solutions which, if implemented, will undoubtedly avoid many of these unnecessary deaths from cancer,

Yours sincerely,

Tim Farron MP  
**Chair of APPG on Radiotherapy**

Tonia Antoniazzi MP  
**Chair of APPG on Cancer**

Dame Diana Johnson DBE MP  
**Member of APPG on Radiotherapy**

Rosie Cooper MP  
**Member of APPG on Radiotherapy**

Yvonne Fovargue MP  
**Member of APPG on Radiotherapy**

Rachael Maskell MP  
**Member of APPG on Radiotherapy**

Jim Shannon MP  
**Member of APPG on Radiotherapy**

The Lord Rennard MBE  
**Member of APPG on Radiotherapy**

Kate Hollern MP  
**Member of APPG on Radiotherapy**

Martyn Day MP  
**Member of APPG on Radiotherapy**