

# Manifesto For Radiotherapy

Improving cancer survival with modern world-class radiotherapy

## Call for Action on Radiotherapy 2020

Since APPG for Radiotherapy Manifesto was launched in September 2018

### Things have got worse

- The WHO published an International Benchmarking study on Cancer Survival showing that we are still bottom of the league of 7 High Income Countries (Arnold et al Lancet Oncology, 2019).
- An APPG-RT Inquiry found that the NHSE are misinterpreting one of the available modelling techniques and understating the unmet need for radiotherapy in England by as much as 20,000 people. A 2019 UK audit showed 32% men with locally advanced prostate cancer were not even offered radical radiotherapy.
- NHSE continue to restrict commissioning of advanced radiotherapy in lung cancer. Only half of radiotherapy centres in England are permitted to provide advanced radiotherapy despite it being recommended by NICE and all centres having the necessary equipment. Scandalously, 24% of early stage lung cancer patients are receiving no treatment (Philips et al 2019).
- A freedom of Information request revealed, despite an investment of £130 million 2016-19, half of all radiotherapy centres are still having to use out of date equipment. On top of this, over 50 more machines urgently needed replacing by the end of 2019 and no funding has been made available.
- The loss of bursaries has resulted in a 23% decline in new trainee Therapeutic Radiographer starters and the number of unfilled consultant posts has doubled and is expected to reach 272 in 2023.
- The NHS long term plan has provided a welcome investment in services to diagnose cancer earlier but no increased funding to treat the patients with advanced radiotherapy- so survival will not improve.

### Nothing has been done.....

### We urgently need

1. An extra £100M a year (increasing the radiotherapy spend from 5% to 6.5% of the annual cancer budget – still less than the European average) to make access to advanced radiotherapy the norm and additional central funding for a national rolling machine replacement programme.
2. The immediate £250 million to build new satellite centres and an additional £140M to replace and upgrade current out of date machines and modernise IT networking
3. A radiotherapy Tsar with authority to organise the service and allow the technology revolution in radiotherapy our patients deserve, the professionals recommend, & which will improve survival.



**APPGRT**  
All Party Parliamentary  
Group for Radiotherapy