

Robin Swann
Minister of Health
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

Diana Jupp
Chief Executive Officer
Pancreatic Cancer UK
Queen Elizabeth House
4 St Dunstan's Hill
London EC3R 8AD

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Dear Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of nearly 600 supporters of Pancreatic Cancer UK in Northern Ireland, who have backed our Don't Write Me Off campaign. Together, we are calling for a faster, fairer treatment and care pathway for people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

As you will know, 7 in 10 people with pancreatic cancer receive **no treatment at all**. That is simply not good enough, and we need to see an urgent change in the outcomes for people affected by this terrible disease. We are languishing at the bottom of the international leaderboards for pancreatic cancer survival, and have seen these rates stay stubbornly low for the last 50 years.

But pancreatic cancer doesn't have to be a death sentence. We have worked with a group of 200 healthcare professionals, experts and people affected by pancreatic cancer from across the UK to develop an Optimal Care Pathway for the disease.

Northern Ireland's commitment to implementing this new, improved care pathway for pancreatic cancer is a first by any UK nation and a landmark moment in the fight against this devastating disease. Within this context, we're delighted to announce our partnership with the Department of Health and NIPANC in November last year to develop a regional care pathway for pancreatic cancer patients in Northern Ireland. This partnership offers everyone diagnosed with pancreatic cancer the very best chance of survival and as much precious time as possible.

At this critical time, we ask for you to champion this partnership to help us fully deliver on these ambitions and deliver better outcomes for people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. With successful implementation of the pathway, and sustainable funding to make it happen, **treatment rates could double**, and over the next 5 years, around 120 more people with pancreatic cancer in Northern Ireland could live longer and better lives.

We look forward to working with you and colleagues in Northern Ireland to make this happen.

Yours sincerely



Diana Jupp
Chief Executive Officer of Pancreatic Cancer UK
On behalf of Pancreatic Cancer UK and our supporters