

Neil Gray
Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health & Social Care
Scottish Government
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Diana Jupp
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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

We are writing to you on behalf of nearly 3,000 supporters of Pancreatic Cancer UK in Scotland, 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.

Right now, 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.

Pancreatic cancer doesn't have to be a death sentence. With a **faster, fairer treatment and care journey**, and funding to make it happen, more people can be treated and have a chance to survive.

We welcome the Scottish Government's commitment to improving cancer survival, particularly among the less survivable cancers (including pancreatic cancer) in its 10-year cancer strategy. Although Scotland is leading the rest of the UK in beginning to prioritise the less survivable cancers, we need additional **urgent action**.

We have worked with a group of 200 healthcare professionals, experts and people affected by pancreatic cancer to develop an Optimal Care Pathway for the disease. If the Scottish Government supports the implementation of the pathway in Scotland, and provides sustainable funding to make it happen, treatment rates could double, and around 400 more people with pancreatic cancer in Scotland could living longer and better lives over the next five years.

We, and the thousands of people across the UK who are backing our campaign, are demanding the following:

- **Faster:** Diagnosis within 21 days of being sent for tests, and treatment within 21 days of diagnosis.
- **Fairer:** Expert care and support for everyone, no matter where they live, or their chance of survival.

- **Funded:** Sustained funding to make these changes possible, so more people can be saved.

Now is the time to act to ensure better outcomes for people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please meet with us at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can work together to achieve this.

Yours sincerely



Diana Jupp
Chief Executive Officer
Pancreatic Cancer UK

On behalf of Pancreatic Cancer UK and our supporters.