



Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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Dear Prime Minister

Pancreatic cancer is the deadliest common cancer. Half of people die within three months of diagnosis. Without urgent action, pancreatic cancer will claim 50,000 more lives over the course of this Parliament and will overtake breast cancer as the fourth biggest cancer killer.

Unlike with other cancers, we still don't have the rapid tests and treatments to tackle pancreatic cancer. However, over recent years promising pancreatic cancer research and surveillance programmes have put early detection within closer reach.

Now we, the [NUMBER] signatories of this open letter, need your help to make early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer a reality in England.

We stand with Pancreatic Cancer UK to call on you to commit to these three actions in the National Cancer Plan for England to transform pancreatic cancer survival:

1. **Invest in and roll out surveillance programmes for those at the highest risk of developing pancreatic cancer.** This should include the roll out of national surveillance for people with a family history of pancreatic cancer and of case finding in people with new-onset diabetes (NOD) and weight loss.
2. **Invest in and roll out new blood, urine and breath biomarker tests within suspected cancer pathways,** based on the outcomes of emerging clinical trials and evidence – for example, the promising Imperial College London study looking at how breath samples taken in a GP surgery could pick up pancreatic cancer earlier.
3. **Commit at least £35 million every year to pancreatic cancer research for the next 20 years.** This sustained funding is essential because meaningful research breakthroughs require continuous, reliable investment over many years to support the full cycle of research: from bench to bedside.

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These commitments must be part of England's new National Cancer Plan. We need to see clear deadlines and regular checkpoints within the plan to make sure these promises deliver early diagnosis for people with pancreatic cancer, saving thousands of lives every year.

The devastating impact of pancreatic cancer demands action now. We request a swift response and urge you to arrange a meeting with Pancreatic Cancer UK who will be happy to share their evidence, expertise and recommendations to support your Government to make early detection of pancreatic cancer in England a reality.

Please contact Abigail.Bateman@PancreaticCancer.org.uk to set up a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

[Signatories of our open letter]