



Rt Hon John Swinney MSP  
First Minister of Scotland  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

CC: Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

Dear First Minister,

Pancreatic cancer is the deadliest common cancer. Half of people die within three months of diagnosis. Without urgent action, pancreatic cancer will claim thousands more lives in Scotland 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.

We welcomed the Scottish Government's commitment in its to cancer strategy to improve earlier and faster diagnosis with a particular focus on less survivable cancers – including pancreatic cancer. The associated action plans that are in place and in development represent an important opportunity to deliver this ambition.

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

We stand with Pancreatic Cancer UK to call on you to commit to these three actions:

1. **Invest in and roll-out regular monitoring for those at the highest risk of developing pancreatic cancer:** This should include national surveillance for people with a family history of pancreatic cancer and case finding in people with new-onset diabetes and weight loss.
2. **Invest in rolling out new tests to detect pancreatic cancer earlier:** Supporting the development and implementation of innovative blood, urine and breath biomarker tests to improve early detection within the existing cancer services.

Pancreatic Cancer UK, Queen Elizabeth House, 4 St Dunstan's Hill, London EC3R 8AD  
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3. **Urge the UK Government to transform investment into vital pancreatic cancer research by allocating at least £35 million every year across the UK 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.

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 you to drive forward early detection in Scotland.

Please contact [Tom.Steiner@PancreaticCancer.org.uk](mailto:Tom.Steiner@PancreaticCancer.org.uk) to set up a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

[Signatories of open letter]