



Department of Health & Social Care

*From Ashley Dalton MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Public Health and Prevention*

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Ms Diana Jupp
Chief Executive
Pancreatic Cancer UK
By email to: Diana.Jupp@Pancreaticcancer.org.uk

25 June 2025

Dear Ms Jupp,

Thank you for and your co-signatories for your correspondence of 9 June to the Prime Minister's office about Pancreatic Cancer. Your email has been forwarded to this Department.

I would like to thank Pancreatic Cancer UK for the ongoing, amazing work that you carry out for patients throughout the UK. I appreciate your concerns.

The Department recognises that there is more to be done to ensure all pancreatic cancer patients are provided with a timely diagnosis and access to life-saving treatments.

Due to it having non-specific symptoms, pancreatic cancer remains challenging to diagnose, which is why this Department is committed to improving care pathways and utilising non-specific symptom pathways to catch it faster and at an earlier stage.

In April, NHS England released a pilot to improve the earlier diagnosis of pancreatic cancer across a number of Primary Care networks across England. This pilot will identify people aged 60 and over, who have New Onset Diabetes (NOD) or are experiencing sudden weight loss, which are two known risk factors for the disease. Case-finding will take place through searches of GP patient records and those eligible will be invited for a CT scan and blood tests.

The European Registry of Hereditary Pancreatic Diseases (EUROPAC) is another trial which aims to understand inherited conditions of the pancreas. People with a family history of pancreatic cancer or who have been diagnosed with hereditary pancreatitis, can be referred to the study. Those people considered at higher risk of developing pancreatic cancer will be offered secondary cancer screening. Referrals can be made by any healthcare professional across all health sectors, or by individuals through self-referral.

NHS England has funded EUROPAC to recruit a team of regional navigators to support the referral of patients at high risk of hereditary pancreatic cancer into the EUROPAC surveillance programme and to publish a series of findings and protocols to present the study outcomes and feed into future commissioning.

Research is crucial in tackling cancer, which is why the Department invests £1.5billion per year in health research through the National Institute for Health and Care Research

(NIHR). The NIHR research expenditure for all cancers was £121.8million in 2022/23, with cancer being a major area of spending for the NIHR.

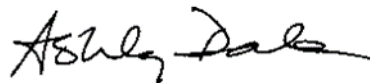
The NIHR also specifically supports delivery in the health and care system of research into pancreatic cancer, funded by industry and by partners in the charity and public sectors. The NIHR supported 73 clinical research studies into pancreatic cancer research between 2018/19 to 2022/2023 through the Clinical Research Network.

The Department is committed to turbocharging clinical research and delivering better patient care, to make the UK a world-leading destination for clinical research. We are working to fast-track clinical trials to drive global investment into life sciences, improve health outcomes and accelerate the development of medicines and therapies of the future, including treatments for pancreatic cancer.

The National Cancer Plan will have patients at its heart and will cover the entirety of the cancer pathway, from referral and diagnosis to treatment and aftercare. It will seek to improve every aspect of cancer care to improve the experience and outcomes for people with cancer, including pancreatic cancer. We will set out how we will improve cancer services and ensure we can provide timely diagnosis and access to life-saving treatments to the public when they need it. Our goal is to reduce the number of lives lost to cancer over the next ten years.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Dalton', with a stylized, cursive script.

ASHLEY DALTON