



The Rt Hon. Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

23 September 2020

Our Ref: EC7173

Dear Rishi,

**RE: Comprehensive Spending Review – Breast Cancer Now**

I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for everything you and your Treasury colleagues are continuing to do to support my constituents in Carshalton and Wallington.

I write on behalf of Breast Cancer Now and in support of their request for additional funding through the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review. Their three key asks are (1) that secondary breast cancer patients are acknowledged; (2) that cancer workforce issues are addressed; and (3) that funding for research is sustained.

You may be aware that 55,000 women and 370 men are diagnosed with breast cancer per year in UK, with one in seven women in the UK developing breast cancer at some point in their lives. There are 35,000 women living with incurable secondary breast cancer, and almost 1,000 women die from breast cancer in the UK every month.

I'm delighted that breast cancer survival rates have improved remarkably over the last 40 years, with five-year survival rates for women at over 86 per cent, up from just 53 per cent in the 1970s. This is a testament to the efforts made to raise awareness of, and boost funding into tackling this disease but more must be done.

Specifically, in the CSR, Breast Cancer Now would like to see:

1. Funding for a National Secondary Breast Cancer Audit covering diagnosis, treatment and access to support, providing the missing insight that is needed to ensure the NHS can meet the needs of those living with secondary breast cancer.
2. Additional funding to recruit and train more Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) to support those with incurable secondary breast cancer, to ensure all patients have access to the care and support they need.
3. Additional funding for the imaging and diagnostic workforce to address the expected backlog as a result of COVID19.
4. A commitment to support a Life Sciences Charity Partnership Fund to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and ensure continuity of charity funded research.

I know that the Government takes tackling breast cancer – and all cancers – very seriously, and is committed to improving life outcomes for those who unfortunately will be diagnosed at some point in their lives. Indeed, I welcome the National Cancer Programme which is committed to offering uniquely tailored cancer treatment to all patients with breast cancer by the end of 2020.

I am also pleased that the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has updated its guidance on diagnosing and treating breast cancer, and am aware that this guidance aims to help healthcare professionals offer the right treatments to people diagnosed with breast cancer, taking into account their individual preferences which I am encouraged will significantly improve patient experience and quality of care.

I enclose a copy of Breast Cancer Now's full briefing on their requests ahead of the CSR, and I should be very grateful if – on behalf of all my constituents living with breast cancer and those who care for them – you could consider their points and provide me with a response.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elliot Colburn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Elliot Colburn**

Conservative Member of Parliament for Carshalton and Wallington