**One Cancer Voice letter to The Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP,**

**Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**

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The Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

21 September 2022

We are writing as a coalition of more than 50 cancer charities, speaking with One Cancer Voice, to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and to offer our support in your work on cancer.

As you will be aware, we are currently in an acute cancer crisis with missed cancer waiting times, a growing cancer backlog and a worsening cancer patient experience. It has never been more important to have strong political leadership on cancer than it is now.

On behalf of people affected by cancer we were relieved to hear the Prime Minister commit at PMQs to publishing the 10-Year Cancer Plan. We now ask that you reaffirm this commitment by setting out a clear date for publication and your commitment to an ambitious and fully funded plan that delivers for the 1 in 2 people who will get cancer in their lifetime.

The 2019 Conservative Party manifesto committed to improve cancer survival but we are concerned that this commitment will not be met by the time of the next General Election, in fact we risk seeing the progress we’ve made reverse. Indeed, we still lag behind other comparable countries in terms of cancer survival, largely because of late diagnosis. Today, there are around 375,000 new cancer cases in the UK every year – but by 2035, we expect that UK number to rise to 500,000. It is critical that measures are taken now both to address this growing cancer challenge and to take a long-term view of cancer, how we can improve and reform the health system to transform outcomes for the patients today and for tomorrow.

We understand that you will need to consider the draft 10-Year Cancer Plan developed by your officials as part of the ‘war on cancer’ and the ambition to deliver world class cancer outcomes in this country. If you are in need of further evidence to support the plan then we are, individually and collectively, very happy to provide it.

We attach a copy of our full 10-Year Cancer Plan submission and urge you to publish this plan and ensure it delivers against three points below:

* **Fit for the future, fit for patients:** This plan must set bold and stretching targets to achieve what really matters to people affected by cancer in the next decade – for example, by ensuring 78% of people are diagnosed at stage 1 or 2 and a 95% Faster Diagnosis Standard is met and ensuring everyone with cancer is able to access a needs assessment and personalised care plan.
* **Visionary and achievable:** A transformative plan will harness the power of the UK’s world beating research and innovation to improve outcomes, patient experience and tackle health inequalities head on. It would publicly announce objectives, set timelines and match them with smart investment, helping to boost the economy.
* **A roadmap to solve cancer staff shortages:** The plan must set out targeted funding to grow the cancer workforce to meet current and future demand to tackle backlogs, make more time for patients and drive innovation. It needs robust workforce modelling for the lifetime of the plan, matched by investment for at least the lifetime of the current Spending Review.

We would welcome the opportunity to support your work. Between us we have insight, evidence and experience across the awareness, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and recovery from all cancer types and patient groups, including adults, children and young people. Following your positive words, reinforcing patients as your priority, we would like to invite you to join us at a meeting to discuss how we think cancer services can be improved in this country and would be very happy to convene a round table with people affected by cancer so you can hear first-hand of their experiences and ideas.

Yours Sincerely

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| Jeannie Rigby  Chief Executive  **Action Bladder Cancer UK** | Rose Woodward  Founder  **Action Kidney Cancer** | Henny Braund  Chief Executive  **Anthony Nolan** | Gemma Peters  Chief Executive  **Blood Cancer UK** |
| Genevieve Edwards  Chief Executive  **Bowel Cancer UK** | Will Jones  Chief Executive  **Brainstrust** | Sue Farrington Smith MBE  Chief Executive  **Brain Tumour Research** | Baroness Delyth Morgan  Chief Executive  **Breast Cancer Now** |
| Pamela Healy OBE  Chief Executive  **British Liver Trust** | Jane Lyons  Chief Executive  **Cancer52** | Professor Frank Chinegwundoh MBE  Chairperson  **Cancer Black Care** | Robin Pritchard  Co-Director  **Cancer Care Map** |
| John Symons  Director  **Cancer of Unknown Primary Foundation - Jo's friends** | Michelle Mitchell OBE  Chief Executive  **Cancer Research UK** | Jo Elvin  Chief Executive  **Children with Cancer UK** | Ashley Gamble  Chief Executive  **Children’s Cancer and Leukaemia Group** |
| signature  Marc Auckland  CLLSA Chair of Trustees  **CLL Support Association** | Dr Jen Kelly  CEO  **Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust** | Tina Seymour  Chief Executive  **Hope for Tomorrow** | Samantha Dixon  Chief Executive  **Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust** |
| Nick Turkentine  Chief Operating Officer  **Kidney Cancer UK** | Anna Jewell  Chair  **Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce** | Zack Pemberton-Whiteley  Chief Executive  **Leukaemia Care** | Fiona Hazel  Chief Executive  **Leukaemia UK** |
| Stewart O'Callaghan  Founder & Chief Exe  **Live Through This** | Ropinder Gill  Chief Executive  **Lymphoma Action** | Lynda Thomas CBE  Chief Executive  **Macmillan Cancer Support** | A close - up of some glasses  Description automatically generated with low confidenceGillian Nuttall  Chief Executive  **Melanoma UK** |
| Liz Darlison MBE  Chief Executive Officer  **Mesothelioma UK** | Sophie Castell  CEO  **Myeloma UK** | Tony Hebdon  Chair  **Neuroblastoma** | Victoria Clare  CEO  **Ovacome** |
| Cary Wakefield  Chief Executive Officer  **Ovarian Cancer Action** | Ali Stunt  CEO  **Pancreatic Cancer Action** | Diana Jupp  Chief Executive  **Pancreatic Cancer UK** | Julie Worrall  CEO  **Penny Brohn UK** |
| Laura Kerby  Chief Executive  **Prostate Cancer UK** | Sarah Quinlan MBE  Charity Director  **Radiotherapy UK** | Mike Grundy  Deputy Chief Executive  **Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation** | Dr Katharine Halliday’s President  **Royal College of Radiologists** |
| Richard Davidson  Chief Executive  **Sarcoma UK** | Gail Jackson  Chief Executive  **Solving Children’s Cancer** | Roshani Perera  Trustee  **Tackle Prostate Cancer** | Annwen Jones OBE  Chief Executive  **Target Ovarian Cancer** |
| Kate Collins  Chief Executive  **Teenage Cancer Trust** | Graham Norton  Interim CEO  **The Brain Tumour Charity** | Athena Lamnisos  Chief Executive  **The Eve Appeal** | Ian Boyd  Executive Director  **Trekstock** |
| Nina Barough CBE  Founder & Chief Executive  **Walk the Walk Worldwide** | Nigel Shattock  Director of Communication & Engagement  **World Cancer Research Fund** | Kathryn Scott  Chief Executive  **Yorkshire Cancer Research** | Rachel Kirby-Rider Chief Executive **Young Lives Vs Cancer** |