



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Helen Whatley MP
Minister of State for Care*

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Laura Kirby
CEO, Prostate Cancer UK
By email to: info@prostatecanceruk.org

27 January 2023

Dear Ms Kirby,

Thank you for your correspondence of 4 October about prostate cancer. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The *Help Us, Help You* campaign encourages all appropriate audiences to see their general practitioner (GP) if they are worried about cancer symptoms. The campaign that ran between March and June 2022 addressed the fear of cancer and boosted an increase of 1600% in numbers of visits to the NHS website's cancer symptoms landing page. On 31 October, a campaign was launched that focused on abdominal and urological symptoms and directly addresses symptoms of prostate cancer.

NHS England is developing a long-term plan that sets out actions that are needed to support the workforce. This includes forecasts for the number of healthcare professionals needed considering retention and productivity. This plan will ensure that we have the right numbers of skilful staff to transform and deliver high quality services.

This year, the highest ever number of doctors accepted a place on the GP training programme in England – a record 4,032 trainees, up from 2,671 in 2014.

Health Education England is facilitating the development of Cancer Nurses through 250 training grants of up to £5,000 each in 2022/23. The grants enable Cancer Nurse Specialists to develop specialist clinical, leadership, education or research capabilities.

In 2020-21 and 2021-22, 92% of National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's (NICE) recommendations on cancer drugs were positive. This includes recommendations through the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF), which supports patient access to the most promising new cancer medicines. Since 2016, the CDF has benefited over 80,000 patients, with almost 100 medicines treating 218 different cancers, including prostate cancer.

In 2018, the Government announced £75 million towards clinical trials for prostate cancer, focusing on improving early diagnosis and survival rates and exploring different treatment options. Since April 2018, the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) has awarded over £60 million to over 28 research studies relevant to prostate cancer.

Research includes randomised controlled trials of different treatments for prostate cancer, a randomised controlled trial of different methods of biopsy for suspected prostate cancer and a survivors' Rehabilitation Evaluation after cancer.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helen Whately', with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the 'y'.

HELEN WHATELY