



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Rory Harvey – Chair of Cancer Cancer Alliance
Victoria House,
Capital Park,
Fulbourn,
Cambridge,
CB21 5XA

4 June 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rory Harvey'.

We are delighted you have taken on the role, as Chair of the Cancer Alliance in the East of England.

We are keen to see cancer services continue to improve in our area and have been campaigning for a satellite radiotherapy centre at or near the Lister Hospital, to help improve patient experience. It is unacceptable that many Cancer patients in our constituencies have to travel to Mount Vernon Hospital in London to receive radiotherapy treatment, which is a very difficult journey and is required to be made many times during the course of treatment. If we are to improve patient experience, then we must move cancer services closer to people's homes.

There is general recognition that shorter travel times help improve the patient experience, and there is a general commitment to treat patients locally where possible accepting that some treatments may be better delivered in specialist centres. NHS England's Vision for Radiotherapy, outlined a real drive to ensure equity of access to innovative radiotherapy across England. However, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, are two important County areas, which have no radiotherapy provision of their own, despite being home to almost 2 million people.

There is a recognised need for a radiotherapy unit based at or near the Lister Hospital, which could provide services to most patients in Hertfordshire and many in Bedfordshire. We have met NHS England and a variety of organisations several times and have now reached the stage of East and North Herts Hospital Trust, which runs the Lister Hospital and Mount Vernon, completing a business case for a new satellite radiotherapy facility.

The realistic expectation would be to have one or two linear accelerators on or near to the Lister site, which could treat:



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- Breast cancer
- Colorectal cancer (mainly rectal for radiotherapy)
- Pelvic cancers including prostate and gynaecological cancers
- Palliation of bone metastases
- Palliation of lung cancer
- Palliation of brain metastases

We understand it is unlikely this facility would be suitable for head and neck radiotherapy, which would need to be undertaken at Mount Vernon, but technology continues to improve. A Clinical Oncologist is on site at the Lister most days of the week, so medical cover is not a major issue and it is estimated that perhaps 80% of radiotherapy for our East and North Herts patients could be given in such a unit, which would dramatically improve patient experience.

Our understanding is such a facility would have a capital cost of approximately £20 million and we are committed to asking the Chancellor for the funds, if the Cancer Alliance is able to take control of the project and drive it forward to a successful conclusion. Patient experience helps to improve outcomes for patients and bringing cancer care closer to people's homes is a necessary step in revolutionising cancer treatment in our area.

We look forward to your earliest reply, so we can make our submission to the Chancellor for the Autumn Budget.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SM', written over a blue line.

Stephen McPartland
Member of Parliament for Stevenage

Additional signatories:

Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald MP
Anne Main MP
Rt Hon Grant Shapps
Mark Prisk MP
Richard Harrington MP
Nadine Dorries MP
Charles Walker MP
Bim Afolami MP