

From

Date

Rt Hon David Cameron,  
House of Commons,  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Pancreatic Cancer**

Almost 97% of people diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer die within 5 years. **22 people a day die from Pancreatic cancer.** Earlier, clearer diagnosis would reduce this [1].

This is a campaign for better awareness of Pancreatic Cancer, not just today, not just in November 2011 which is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, but until the detection and survival rate for this disease is improved.

Pancreatic cancer could be termed 'The Hidden Killer'. Many of its symptoms mirror other less critical illnesses and therefore GPs often do not realise their significance [2]. Other possible causes for symptoms include Jaundice, Diabetes, Gall Stones or back problems. Time can be lost before the correct diagnosis is reached, by which time it can be too late. ***THIS SITUATION CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.***

Before you dismiss this please read the symptoms [2]. If you have any of these, it probably isn't Pancreatic cancer...but then again it might just be.

Pancreatic cancer diagnosis and treatment is a lottery. It could affect you or someone you love.

There needs to be a significant improvement in funding for the training of GPs and for rapid diagnosis. This should not be taken from other parts of the NHS but be new and ring-fenced money.

We need better Pancreatic cancer diagnosis NOW. Please tell me how you can change this appalling situation.

Yours sincerely,

[1] Pancreatic cancer is the 5th leading cause of cancer death in the UK. Pancreatic cancer has the worst survival rate of all cancers. 5-year survival is only 3%. This figure has not changed in over 40 years while deaths from many other cancers declined.

[2] Symptoms include jaundice, significant unexplained weight loss, persistent abdominal pain, pain in the upper abdomen and back, new-onset diabetes without weight gain, vague dyspepsia or abdominal discomfort, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, pain when eating, depression. GPs may first look at other possible causes for these symptoms resulting in time being lost before the correct diagnosis is reached. By this time it can be too late to save the patient.

From

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Rt Hon Nick Clegg,  
House of Commons,  
London  
SW1A 0AA

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From

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Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE,  
Secretary of State for Health  
House of Commons,  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Lansley,

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Rt Hon Ed Miliband,  
House of Commons,  
London  
SW1A 0AA

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