

Sheffield City Region Mayoral Combined Authority
11 Broad Street West
Sheffield, S1 2BQ

4 March 2021

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Dear Matt,

Weston Park Cancer Centre

The World Health Organisation recently acknowledged one of the gravest threats posed by COVID is its potential to create a cancer epidemic. To put this in context, delayed diagnosis and treatment in the United Kingdom are expected to result in an increase in the number of deaths from colorectal cancer by 15%, and 9% for breast cancer over the next five years.

While cancer services were maintained throughout the COVID period in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, current estimates suggest that there were around 7,000 fewer cancer referrals and 500 fewer cancers diagnosed between March and December 2020. The impact of referrals returning to pre-COVID levels, the need for more diagnostics, the increasing complexity of treatments and the ongoing need to maintain COVID-safe environments means that additional capacity is needed now more than ever so that we can guarantee patients get timely and specialist treatment.

Through Weston Park Cancer Centre (WPCC) we have a very significant asset, as one of only a handful of such specialist facilities in the country that provides dedicated patient care. However, this facility is now in urgent need of refurbishment. The plans developed would deliver cutting edge innovation through cancer treatment in novel chemotherapy, immunotherapy and radiotherapy. This project will expand translational research capacity at the WPCC, working in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University, to support greater commercialisation of new innovations.

Put simply, the £50m proposal would support improved provision of NHS oncology services to 1.5 million people across the Sheffield City Region with the potential to significantly improve the outcomes of patients with cancer.

We therefore wished to articulate our strong support for this proposal, as a key part of South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw's capital programme. Discussions on the progression of our programme, are also underway at a North East and Yorkshire and Humber scale, in the context of other major

schemes in advance of the next round of bids for investment. Finally, we are also exploring locally what dedicated funds might be available, specifically for cancer, to support the project.

In short, partners across the system are leaving no stone unturned to bring forward this proposal. We urge you to support this crucial scheme and to unlock the funding needed so that it can be made a reality, continuing to improve cancer treatment for people across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw.


With our very best wishes,



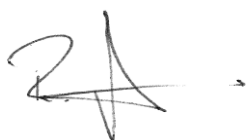
Mayor Dan Jarvis MBE MP
Sheffield City Region Mayoral
Combined Authority



Cllr Simon Greaves
Leader, Bassetlaw District
Council



Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton CBE
Leader, Barnsley Council



Cllr Robert Johnson
Leader, Sheffield City Council



Mayor Ros Jones CBE
Doncaster Council



Cllr Chris Read
Leader, Rotherham Council



Clive Betts
MP for Sheffield East



Olivia Blake
MP for Sheffield Hallam



Paul Blomfield
MP for Sheffield Central



Miriam Cates
MP for Penistone & Stocksbridge



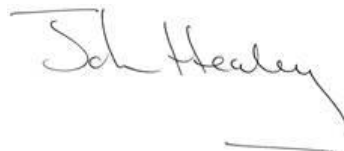
Sarah Champion
MP for Rotherham Central



Gill Furniss
MP for Sheffield Brightside &
Hillsborough



Louise Haigh
MP for Sheffield Heeley



John Healey
MP for Wentworth &
Dearne



Ed Miliband
MP for Doncaster North

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, featuring large loops and a long trailing flourish.

Stephanie Peacock
MP for Barnsley East

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.P.I.S.' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Alexander Stafford
MP for Rother Valley

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style that reads 'Dame Rosie Winterton'.

Dame Rosie Winterton
MP for Doncaster Central