



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ashley Dalton MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention
Department of Health and Social Care
By email

Our Ref: EC05476/TM

8 July 2025

Dear Ashley

Re: National Screening Programme for Prostate Cancer

I am writing to you following a meeting at my surgery with my constituent and the chair of Herefordshire Prostate Cancer Support Group. My constituent set up this group with others following prostate cancer diagnosis.

My constituent is concerned that new cases and deaths from prostate cancer continue to rise, now up to 56,780 and 13,168 per year respectively. This figure exceeds the number of breast cancer deaths, yet there is no national screening programme for prostate cancer in the UK.

He believes that the cost of screening is justified by comparison of the cost of radical, curative treatment of early cancer versus long-term palliative radiotherapy, hormone and chemotherapy for advanced disease. He calculates that in Herefordshire, a potential 6250 men over the age of 65 will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, this means that as many as 1437 deaths may occur because they have been diagnosed too late as they are presenting at stage IV which is typically too late to survive.

Please could you advise on the following:

- Does the Government understand the need and have any plans to introduce national screening programme for prostate cancer?
- Has the Government balanced the potential benefits of early detection and saving lives against the risks of overdiagnosis, false positives, and resource allocation?
- Could the Government extend the use of existing MRI machines for longer hours to meet the current and potential increasing diagnostic demand?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Ellie Chowns MP
Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire

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