

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
Tuesday 28th September 2021

Dear Mr Hunt,

I am writing to follow-up on our discussion during the Health Select Committee oral evidence session as part of your inquiry into Cancer Services. During the session you requested that I provide further information on the investment needed to address workforce shortages in clinical radiology and clinical oncology. I have outlined the minimum amount of funding that we believe is required to begin to address these shortages below.

As I told the Committee currently there is a 33% shortfall of consultant clinical radiologists in the NHS and we need at least another 1,939 consultants just to keep up with pre-coronavirus levels of demand for scans and image-guided surgery. This year we have been granted an additional 110 clinical radiology trainee places, which is a very positive start, but we need to see this increased number of training places continue for at least another four years. We estimate that it would cost £43.3 million to get one cohort of 110 additional trainees through their training and so the total funding that we would need to see invested would be a minimum of £173.2 million.

Similarly for clinical oncology there is currently a shortfall of 17% which is set to rise up to 29% by 2025. The current shortfall is equivalent to 189 whole-time equivalent clinicians. The additional 50 trainee places for clinical oncology that were granted for this year will go some way to closing this gap, but we must see this uplift continued for at least four more cohorts to begin to future-proof the cancer workforce. We estimate that it costs £22.8 million to get these 50 trainees through their training and so the total investment we would need to see would be £91.2 million for clinical oncology.

We very much appreciate the work of the Committee in looking at how we can deliver the best possible care to all cancer patients through this inquiry. We would be delighted to provide any further information that might be helpful to you on this.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jeanette Dickson
President