

Template letter/email to your MP

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[If you have any personal experience with cervical cancer or Pelvic Radiation Disease, we recommend you share this with your MP too, if you are comfortable doing so.](#)

Dear [MPs name],

I live in your constituency at [Insert your address]. I am also a supporter of Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, the UK's leading cervical cancer charity.

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust have just released a report entitled, [*"I want my life back". The long-term side-effects of radiotherapy: Gaps in recognition and resourcing leaving patients suffering without treatment.*](#) This report shows that patients are suffering with debilitating symptoms due to gaps in radiotherapy follow up care.

Radiotherapy is a highly effective treatment, and more people are surviving cervical cancer than ever before. While short-term side effects are common, the therapy can sometimes cause Pelvic Radiation Disease (PRD); a collection of symptoms affecting the pelvic organs – such as bladder and bowels – following toxicity exposure during treatment.

Symptoms can include incontinence, pain, infertility, lymphoedema, and nerve damage, and can be chronic and debilitating. They can also occur months or even years after radiotherapy has been completed, meaning it is not always obvious to the person experience them what the cause it.

These symptoms are often manageable and treatable through access to specialist late-effects clinics and clinicians who understand the tests and treatments patients with PRD may need. However, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust has found that too few people living with PRD are getting the care they need.

Limited recognition of PRD in the health community and lack of resources to support diagnosis and treatment mean many are suffering alone. Jo's started this

report well before COVID-19 and are releasing it now as patients affected by PRD cannot wait any longer.

Will you support the recommendations given by Jo's Trust, and help raise awareness of this condition?

- We want all patients should leave radiotherapy with a detailed Treatment Plan, also issued to their GP, so they can clearly understand their treatment, possible side effects, and where to turn to for support if they need it.
- We want to see centres of excellence for PRD and funding to support the development of specialist late-effects clinics, to ensure that everyone who needs treatment can access it, and to support clinicians to facilitate referrals.
- In order to reduce the impact of PRD, we want increased research about how types of radiotherapy such as Advanced Radiotherapy can benefit cervical cancer patients, alongside greater teaching for health professionals about how toxicity following pelvic radiotherapy can affect the body many years after treatment.

I would be grateful if you could meet with Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust to further discuss this report, and bring it to the attention of Government.

If you are also able to share it on social media we would be very grateful. A suggested tweet is below:

"Radiotherapy is an effective treatment for cervical cancer, but can sometimes result in long-term side-effects including Pelvic Radiation Disease. @JoTrust are calling for greater research & support for the condition, to ensure that nobody is left with unmanageable side-effects."

Please read the report at <https://www.jostrust.org.uk/our-research-and-policy-work/our-research/prd>. If you would like further information or would want to meet with the charity to discuss the report in more detail then do let me know.

Thank you for your support.

Yours Sincerely,

[Your Name]