Dear X,

As a member of your constituency, I am writing to you to seek your urgent assistance in the fight against pancreatic cancer. I live at [full address required].

[explain your personal connection to pancreatic cancer here]

Over 9000 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer each year, and at the moment, **just 1% will survive beyond ten years**. In comparison, 78% of breast cancer patients and 98% of testicular cancer patients will still be alive ten years after diagnosis. In fact, pancreatic cancer has one of the highest incident-to-mortality rates of almost ANY disease.

While most diseases have had significant funding into research to improve early diagnosis and develop more effective treatments, pancreatic cancer has suffered from chronic lack of funding. In fact, just 1.4% of cancer research funding is invested into the disease. This is shocking considering it’s the UK’s fifth biggest cancer killer, and set to become the fourth by 2030.

The shocking survival statistics are also related to the fact that cancer of the pancreas is currently very difficult to diagnose. Upon diagnosis, most sufferers find they have untreatable terminal cancer with an average life expectancy of between three to six months. Surgery is currently the only cure for pancreatic cancer, but only 10 per cent are diagnosed in time for this to be an option.

The UK lags behind the rest of Europe in terms of the one-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer. The UK average is 17 per cent, the European average is 21 per cent and the best in Europe (Belgium) is 28 per cent.

There is also a large discrepancy in the survival rates across the UK. For example, 25 per cent of those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in South West London will survive for over a year, while in North Trent, it is below 15 per cent. Survival rates in our cancer network are [figures available on [graph](http://bit.ly/12Dw5Lz) or contact us on **0303 040 1770 to find out].**  We need to know why this discrepancy is happening.

I am a supporter of [Pancreatic Cancer Action](http://www.pancreaticcanceraction.org/) whose mission is to change pancreatic cancer survival number and focus on improving early detection statistics. They are very proactive in raising awareness about pancreatic cancer and have developed a [free eLearning module](http://pancreaticcanceraction.org/what-we-do/how-donations-help/pancreatic-cancer-learning-modules/) for GPs alongside the RCGP entitled “Diagnosing Pancreatic Cancer in General Practice”.

We need your help to change the numbers. First off, Pancreatic Cancer Action is asking that a pancreatic cancer audit for NHS England and NHS Wales is carried out along the lines of the Scottish HPB audit and the recent Lung Cancer audit. As MP for my constituency, I hope you can write to the relevant NHS bodies encouraging them to set up an audit so we can have an idea why patients fare better in some regions and not in others.

I would like you please to raise the issue in parliament about the fact that there is regional discrepancy in survival, and to highlight the pitiful research funding pancreatic cancer receives – despite it being the fifth biggest cancer killer in the UK, it receives less than one per cent of overall research funding.

Please could you also consider getting involved in the [APPG on Pancreatic Cancer](https://pancreaticcanceraction.org/what-we-do/goals/party-parliamentary-group-appg-pc/) where along with your parliamentary colleagues you can help save lives by driving earlier diagnosis.

I would be happy to talk to you about this further either over the phone or in person.

I look forward to your response and thank you in advance.

Kindest regards,

[Insert name]