3Your full address in this corner.

(You need to provide an address when writing to your MP)

Dear (X),

I am writing to you as a member of your constituency to express my concern about the impact of Covid-19 on pancreatic cancer.

(If you have a personal connection to pancreatic cancer, please explain it here.)

Around 10,000 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer every year in the UK, approximately 80% of those people will not survive for one year and under 8% will survive for 5 years. Early diagnosis and timely surgery are the key to pancreatic cancer survival and represent the only chance for a cure. Patients diagnosed via GP referral have a significantly improved survival rate when compared to other routes to diagnosis such as emergency presentation in A&E.

The recent drop in GP referrals for pancreatic cancer is therefore extremely worrying. Delays in referral will result in pancreatic cancer patients being diagnosed late, at an advanced stage of disease when surgery is no longer an option. Some researchers have warned of a “cancer epidemic” and a sharp rise in non Covid related deaths unless patients can be encouraged to present to primary care.

The need to balance Covid risk and cancer care is clear. But unless services can be restored, the backlog of non Covid patients will result in excess deaths and a huge ongoing challenge for NHS services that are already under intense pressure.

As MP for my constituency, I hope that you can write to the relevant NHS bodies and advocate for pancreatic cancer patients at a time when their voices risk being forgotten.

I also hope that you will raise the issue of pancreatic cancer in parliament and help Pancreatic Cancer Action in our calls for a public health campaign to raise awareness of cancer symptoms during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are also asking for further information on how cancer hubs will provide diagnostics, surgery and treatments for pancreatic cancer patients and the long-term plan for managing cancer services alongside Covid and during the recovery phase.

Finally, I ask that you consider joining the [APPG on pancreatic cancer](http://www.pancanappg.org.uk/), where along with parliamentary colleagues you can help be a voice for patients and early diagnosis.

I look forward to your response and thank you in advance

Kindest regards,

(Name)