Your full address here

(you must provide an address when writing to your MP)

Date

Dear MP (insert name)

I am writing to you as a member of your constituency, in the run up to pancreatic cancer awareness month this November to raise the issue pancreatic cancer and challenges in the disease.

The need to improve pancreatic cancer diagnosis and outcomes is urgent. Around 9,500 people die of the disease annually across the UK, often within weeks of diagnosis. Pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate of any of the 22 most common cancers; **5-year survival is under 8% and has remained virtually static for 50 years.** Survival across the UK lags behind many other high-income countries and must improve in line with other cancers.

While these stats paint a bleak picture of the disease, with early diagnosis, pancreatic cancer can be survived. **For those diagnosed in time for potentially lifesaving surgery, survival increases to around 30%.** This presents an opportunity for intervention where patients can be diagnosed earlier and live longer with a better quality of life.

Pancreatic cancer can affect anyone, but across the UK, outcomes from the disease vary according to socioeconomic background, ethnicity and age. These health inequalities are predicted to increase as the Covid-19 outbreak continues and pancreatic cancer could be left even further behind.

Space for your story/experience with pancreatic cancer (to keep your MP engaged we suggest making your story concise)

We cannot increase early diagnosis and survival of pancreatic cancer until we understand inequalities affecting the disease and work to reach more people than ever before with our message.

You can help us make the 2020’s the decade of change for pancreatic cancer by;

* Wearing our pancreatic cancer awareness ribbon badge throughout November
* Joining the APPG on pancreatic cancer
* Writing to the relevant NHS bodies and advocating for pancreatic cancer patients at a time when their voices risk being forgotten
* Sharing our resources throughout November (symptoms poster, risks poster, purple heart poster) in your constituency, on your social media or website (find out more at [www.panact.org/turnitpurple](http://www.panact.org/turnitpurple))

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

Kindest regards,

(Name)