Your full address here

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

Dear MSP,

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. Nearly 800 people die of the disease annually in Scotland, 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 Scottish survival rates remain behind those in England and Wales.

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 Scotland, 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

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 2020s the decade of change for pancreatic cancer by;

* Supporting the motion for a November debate on pancreatic cancer to mark pancreatic cancer awareness month
* Attending the debate and raising the issue of pancreatic cancer inequalities affecting your constituents in the chamber
* Wearing our pancreatic cancer awareness ribbon badge in November and to the debate
* Joining the CPG on 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
* Supporting the work of Pancreatic Cancer Action Scotland in your local area

I look forward to your response and thank you in advance

Kindest regards,

(Name)