



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

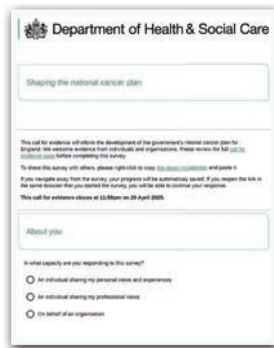


# Shaping the national cancer plan

Call for evidence: tell us your ideas about how to make cancer care better for everyone



# About this easy read booklet



Department of Health & Social Care

Shaping the national cancer plan

The call for evidence will inform the development of the government's national cancer plan for England. The evidence is needed from individuals and organisations. Please review the call for evidence and complete the survey.

To share this survey with others, please sign in to your GOV.UK account and share it.

If you navigate away from the survey, your progress will be automatically saved. If you return the link in the survey browser that you started the survey, you will be able to continue your responses.

This call for evidence closes at 12.00pm on 28 April 2023.

About you

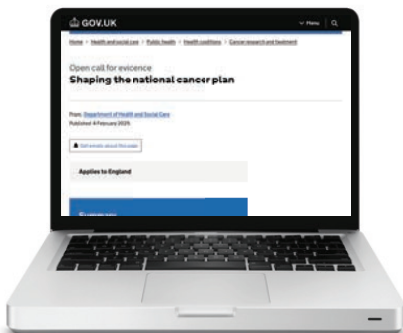
In what capacity are you responding to this survey?

- ☐ An individual sharing my personal views and experiences
- ☐ An individual sharing my professional views
- ☐ On behalf of an organisation

This is an easy read of a bigger survey called **Shaping the national cancer plan**.



This easy read booklet tells you about the main things in the bigger survey.



If you want more information, you can find the bigger survey on our website:

[www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/shaping-the-national-cancer-plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/shaping-the-national-cancer-plan)



We are asking people what they think about cancer care.

Please read this booklet and answer our questions.

# How to fill in this survey



We have this easy read survey on our website. You can fill it in online if you want to:

[www.consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/shaping-the-national-cancer-plan-easy-read](http://www.consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/shaping-the-national-cancer-plan-easy-read)



Or, you can print out this easy survey and fill in a paper copy.



If you do not know how to print something, you might be able to get help at your local library.



Please send your answers back to us by **Monday 14 July 2025**.

# What is in this booklet

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**Page 1** About our call for evidence

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**Page 45** Our privacy notice

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Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



## About our call for evidence

We are the Department of Health and Social Care. We are writing a new plan for **cancer** care in England.



**Cancer** is an illness people can get. It can be very serious and can make you very poorly.



The government is asking people what they think about cancer care. We call this a **call for evidence**.



The government last did a call for evidence about cancer care in 2022.



If you answered our call for evidence before, you can still answer the questions in this survey. They are different to last time.



We will read all the answers people give us in this call for evidence and the one we did in 2022.



We will use what people tell us to make our plan.

# Making cancer care better



1 in every 2 people will be affected by cancer in their lives. They might have cancer themselves or know someone who has cancer.



A lot of the NHS's work is on cancer care.



Lots of people get ill or die from cancer every year.



Cancer care in England has got much better and we are saving more lives.



But we must do more to make sure that everyone gets the best care.



We want to make all parts of cancer care better. This is from:



- **Diagnosis.** This is when a doctor does some tests and says you have cancer



- **Treatment.** This is when you get the medicines and care you need



- **Aftercare.** This is care after your treatment has finished or your cancer is gone



Making cancer care better will help us to save even more lives.





## Putting patients first

We want to put patients at the heart of our cancer plan.



We will make sure patients have more control over their cancer care.

And we will make sure we **communicate** better with patients.



**Communicate** means being able to tell other people what you want and how you feel.



This will help people to understand and make decisions about their cancer care.



This will help us to make sure people have a better experience when they use cancer services.

# How to fill in this survey



We have some things we want to think about to help make our plan. We call these things **areas**.



For each area, we have written some ideas about things we could do.



Then we ask you which are the 3 most important things you think we should do.



You do not have to answer all of the questions if you do not want to.



If you do not know the answer, you do not have to tick any of the boxes.



When you answer our questions, try not to put any personal information. Things like your name or your address.



Before you send us your answers, it is important you read our privacy notice on page 45.

It tells you how we will use and look after the information you tell us.



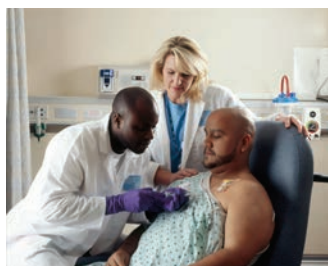
## Questions about you

**Question 1:** Have you used cancer services before?

**You can tick more than 1 box.**

☐

No. If you ticked this answer, go to page 11.

☐

Yes. I have used cancer services as a patient. If you ticked this answer, go to question 2.

☐

Yes. I have used cancer services because I am caring for someone with cancer. If you ticked this answer, go to question 3.

☐

Yes. I have used cancer services for another reason. Please tell us more in this box then go to page 11.



**Question 2:** Have you had treatment for cancer?

**You can tick more than 1 box.**



☐ I am waiting to start my treatment.



☐ I am having treatment at the moment.



☐ I have had treatment in the last year.



☐ I have had treatment in the last 5 years.



☐ I have had treatment more than 5 years ago.



☐ No.





**Question 3:** Has the person you care for had treatment for their cancer?

**You can tick more than 1 box.**

☐

They are waiting to start their treatment.

☐

They are having treatment at the moment.

☐

They have had treatment in the last year.

☐

They have had treatment in the last 5 years.

☐

They have had treatment more than 5 years ago.

☐

No.

## Area 1: prevention

**Prevention** means doing things to stop something from happening.



For some cancers there are things you can do to try to stop them from happening.

Things like doing exercise and being careful about what we eat and drink.



Here is a list of things that can give you more chance of getting these types of cancer:



Drinking alcohol



Smoking

☐

Being very overweight

☐

Not doing any exercise

☐

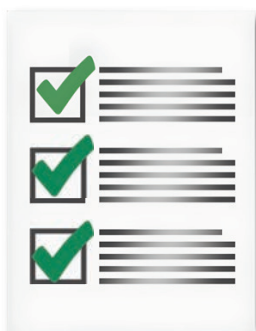
Being out in the sun without sun cream on

☐

Breathing in dirty air



The government could look at these things to find ways to stop people from getting some cancers.



Look at the list again. Tick the boxes next to the 3 most important things you think the government should look at.



**Question 4:** If you want to, tell us why you picked these 3 things. Write your answer in this box:



**Question 5:** Is there anything else the government could do to try to stop people from getting some cancers? Please tell us here:



## Area 2: early diagnosis

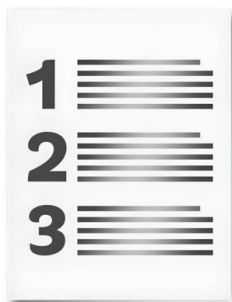
**Diagnosis** is when a doctor does some tests and says you have cancer.



It is really important that we find out early if someone has cancer.



This is so we can get them the right treatment and care quickly. It gives people more chance of getting better.



Here is a list of things that the government could do to help catch cancer early. We could:



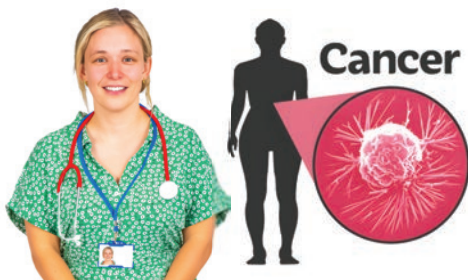
Tell people what cancer might look like or feel like in the body. And make sure everyone can get help as soon as they need it.





Support local doctors to make a **referral** at the right time.

A **referral** is when your doctor writes a letter to ask another doctor to see you.



The new doctor will know a lot about cancer.



Get better at doing **cancer screening**. And get more people to come to **screening**.

**Cancer screening** is tests to check for early signs of cancer. Things like having your boobs or chest checked.



Make sure we do more tests when and where people need them.

This might be at home or in the local community.



Find out who has more chance of catching some cancers.

Work with these people to try to stop cancer from happening.



Support more **research** and finding new ways to diagnose and treat cancer.



**Research** means looking at something to find out more about it.



Look at the list again. Tick the boxes next to the 3 most important things you think the government should do.



**Question 6:** If you want to, tell us why you picked these 3 things. Write your answer in this box:



**Question 7:** Is there anything else the government could do to help catch cancer early?  
Please tell us here:

## Area 3: treatment



It should be easy for everyone to use cancer services and get the treatment they need.



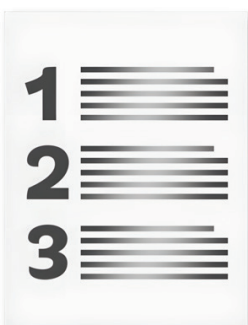
Patients should not have to wait too long to find out they have cancer or get treatment.



It is important that everyone across the country can get the same good care and treatment.



Some areas should not get worse care than others.



Here is a list of things that the government could do. These things would make it easier to use cancer services and get good care.

We could:



Make sure we can give more patients the treatment they need. This includes having the right amount of staff, like doctors and nurses.



Make sure cancer care services are working in the best way.



Check the information we have about patients. This will help us to make sure care is the same and fair for everyone.



Make hospital wards and rooms better for patients. This includes having rooms and places that family and carers can use.



☐

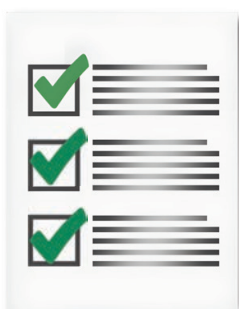
Get better at making sure patients can understand information about their cancer care. And that they have all of the information they need.

☐

Make sure people have the right support for any other health problems. This is before they start having treatment for cancer and when they are having it.

☐

Use more special testing that helps to make sure a patient's treatment is right for them.



Look at the list again. Tick the boxes next to the 3 most important things you think the government should do.



**Question 8:** If you want to, tell us why you picked these 3 things. Write your answer in this box:



**Question 9:** Is there anything else the government could do to make it easier to use cancer services and get good care? Please tell us here:



## Area 4: living with cancer

When you have cancer or have had cancer it can have a big effect on you.



You might have some **physical health** problems or it can affect your mental health.



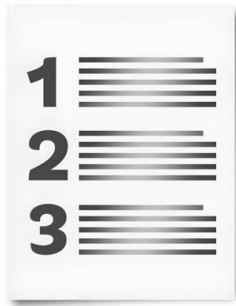
**Physical health** is things to do with your body.



**Mental health** is how you feel in your mind and how you cope with everyday life.



People need support that is right for them in all parts of their cancer care. This will make sure people with cancer can still have a good life.



Here is a list of things that the government could do to support people living with cancer.

We could:



Give people support that is right for them in their cancer care.



Have better mental health support for people. And more support for patients and their partners, family members and carers.



Give more support to different groups of people.

This might be children with cancer or people who have had a family member die from cancer.

☐

Have more staff who have had special training to support patients with cancer.

☐

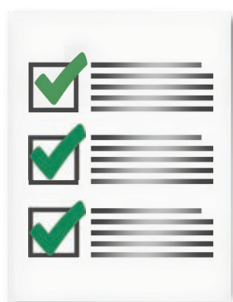
Give more support to other services that support people with cancer care. These are places like **hospices** and other charities.



A **hospice** is a hospital for people who are really ill and at the end of their lives.

☐

Make it easier for people at the end of their life to get the best care.



Look at the list again. Tick the boxes next to the 3 most important things you think the government should do.





**Question 10:** If you want to, tell us why you picked these 3 things. Write your answer in this box:



**Question 11:** Is there anything else the government could do to support people living with cancer? Please tell us here:

## Area 5: research and new ways to treat cancer

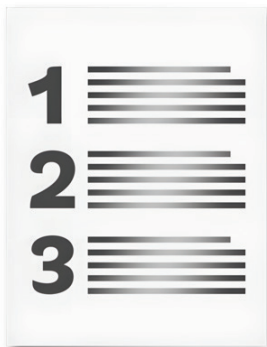


We want to use new ideas and **technology** to find cancer early and treat it.



**Technology** means things like computers and **scanners**.

A **scanner** is a special machine that looks inside your body. It is a bit like having an x-ray.



Here is a list of things that the government could do to support research and new treatments for cancer.



We could:

☐

Collect better information about cancer and what treatments work best.



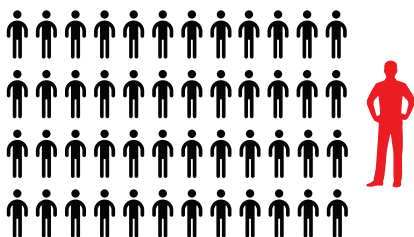
Support more patients to take part in **trials**. A **trial** is when you test an idea. For example, testing a new medicine to see if it works.



Look into new ways to spot the signs of cancer early.



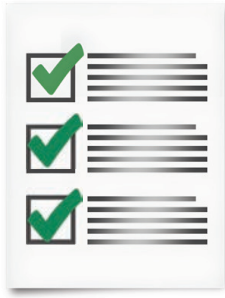
Look into new ways to treat cancer.



Find out more about **rare** types of cancer and how to spot them. **Rare** means not a lot of people have it.



Make sure the NHS can use new types of treatments as soon as possible.



Look at the list again. Tick the boxes next to the 3 most important things you think the government should do.



**Question 12:** If you want to, tell us why you picked these 3 things. Write your answer in this box:



**Question 13:** Is there anything else the government could do to support research and new treatments for cancer? Please tell us here:

## Area 6: health inequalities



**Health inequality** is when some people do not get the same chances to have good health.



Some groups of people have less chance of finding cancer early and treating it.



This might be people who live in deprived areas and people from ethnic minority groups.



We say a place is deprived if a lot of people who live there:

- do not have a job



- have a disability

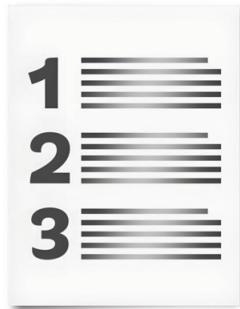




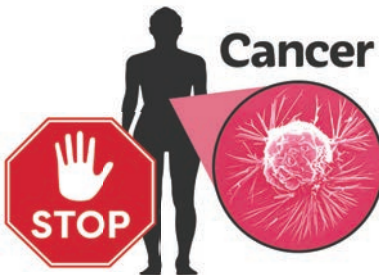
- see more crime



**Ethnic minorities** are people from different groups or backgrounds. This might be Asian, Chinese, Black, Roma or Irish Traveller.



Here is a list of things that the government could do to make sure cancer care is fair for everyone. We could:

☐

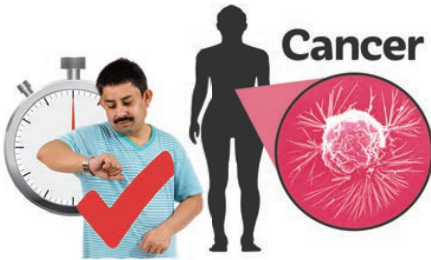
Do more to try to stop some cancers from happening in the first place.

☐

Tell people what cancer might look like or feel like in the body. And make sure everyone can get help as soon as they need it.



Make it easier for more people to come for cancer screening tests.



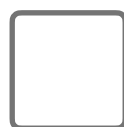
Make sure more people can find out if they have cancer early.



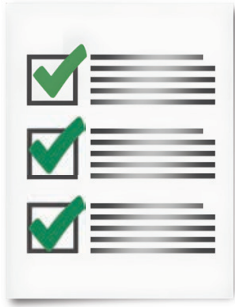
Make it easier for people to use cancer services and get good care.



Make sure people have a better experience when they use cancer services. This is in all parts of their cancer care.



Make sure patients have better care and support after their treatment has finished or their cancer is gone.



Look at the list again. Tick the boxes next to the 3 most important things you think the government should do.

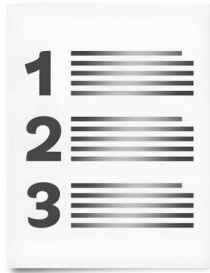


**Question 14:** If you want to, tell us why you picked these 3 things. Write your answer in this box:

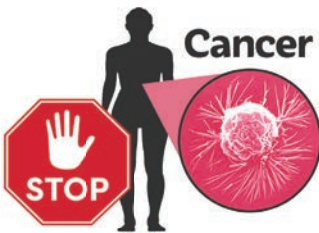


**Question 15:** Is there anything else the government could do to make sure cancer care is fair for everyone? Please tell us here:

# Main things to work on



Here is a list of important things the government could work on in our cancer plan.



☐ Stopping some cancers from happening in the first place.



☐ Telling people how to spot the signs of cancer.



☐ Making sure more people can find out if they have cancer early.



☐ Making it easier to use cancer services and get good care.



This includes making sure people do not have to wait too long to have tests or get treatment.

☐

Making sure people have a better experience when they use cancer services. This is in all parts of their cancer care.

☐

Making sure patients have better care and support after their treatment has finished or their cancer is gone.

☐

Making sure cancer care is fair for everyone.



Look at the list again. Tick the boxes next to the 3 most important things you think the government should work on.





**Question 16:** If you want to, tell us why you picked these 3 things. Write your answer in this box:



**Question 17:** If you think the government should work on something else, please tell us here:



## More questions about you

**Question:** Which part of the UK do you live in?

☐

England

☐

Wales

☐

Scotland

☐

Northern Ireland

☐

I do not live in the UK

☐

I don't want to say





**Question:** If you live in England, tell us what part of England you live in.

☐

North East England

☐

North West England

☐

Yorkshire and the Humber

☐

East of England

☐

East Midlands

☐

West Midlands

☐

South East England

☐

South West England

☐

London

☐

I don't want to say





**Question:** What is your **ethnicity**?  
**Ethnicity** is your race, background and culture.



**White:**

☐ English, Welsh, Scottish,  
Northern Irish, British

☐ Irish

☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller

☐ Roma

☐ Any other White  
background. Please tell us:



### Mixed ethnic group:

☐

Asian and White

☐

Black African and White

☐

Black Caribbean and White

☐

Other Mixed or Multiple background. Please tell us:



### Asian, or Asian British:

☐

Indian

☐

Pakistani

☐

Bangladeshi

☐

Chinese

Other Asian or Asian British.  
Please tell us:





## Black or Black British:

☐

African

☐

Caribbean

☐

Other Black or Black British. Please tell us:



## Other ethnic group:

☐

Arab

☐

Another race or ethnic background. Please tell us:

☐

I don't want to say

**Question:** How old are you?



- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 to 24            | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 34            | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44            | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 to 74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Older than 75       |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't want to say |                                   |



**Question:** What is your sex?

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male                | <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't want to say |                                 |





**Question:** Is your gender now different to the one you were given when you were born?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

I don't want  
to say

# How to send your answers back to us



Please send your answers back to us by **Monday 14 July 2025**.



You can send them back to us by post or by email.



## By post:

Cancer Call for Evidence  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU  
United Kingdom



## By email:

You can **scan** your answers and then email them to us at:

[cancer-callforevidence@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:cancer-callforevidence@dhsc.gov.uk)



A **scanner** is something that takes a special kind of picture of paper things.



You can get machines that scan things or you can do it on a smart phone.





You can save a scan to your computer or phone.




If you do not know how you scan something, you might be able to get help at your local library.

**Personal Information**

Your name  
 Jane Smith

Address  
 14 Redbrick Lane  
 Welford  
 East Mording  
 EM3 9NM

Phone  
 08944 368 1949

# Our privacy notice

When you answer our questions, we will get some personal information about you.



Things like the area where you live and information about when you used cancer services.



We will follow the law about keeping your information safe and private.



We will keep your information for up to 12 months after the survey closes. We will then delete it.



If you are not happy about how we have kept your personal information, you can complain by:



- **Email:**  
[data\\_protection@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:data_protection@dhsc.gov.uk)



- **Post:**  
Data Protection Officer  
First Floor North  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU



If you are not happy with how we deal with your complaint, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office.



You can find out how to do this on their website:  
[www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint](http://www.ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint)