



**JO CHURCHILL MP**  
*Member of Parliament for Bury St Edmunds*



Mr Ed Garrett  
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*Dear Ed*

I am writing regarding the latest one year cancer survival statistics for our local area, published earlier this year by the Office for National Statistics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

As you know, this data is designed to help Clinical Commissioning Groups monitor their progress in promoting earlier diagnosis and so improve outcomes for patients. I understand that the one year cancer survival rate for West Suffolk CCG is 71.8% for patients diagnosed in 2013, compared to the survival rate for patients diagnosed in 2012 which was 71%. This is just above the national survival rate of 70%. By comparison, Sweden's one-year survival rate is 82%. You will be fully aware that the key way of raising one year survival rates is by improving initiatives to encourage the earlier detection of cancer.

The Department of Health has revised the CCG Assurance Framework, and developed a new Local Health Improvement and Assessment Framework including one year survival rates, meaning there will be closer scrutiny from NHS England on this issue.

Your local leadership will be crucial in ensuring that the right interventions are in place to deliver improved outcomes for patients. I would therefore be interested to obtain an update on the initiatives put in place by the CCG to encourage earlier diagnosis, including improved public awareness campaigns; improved screening update initiatives; and training and diagnostic tools for GPs (e.g. the electronic



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Cancer Decision Support Tool) to encourage timely referrals. In due course, I trust we will speak further on this matter to deliver the cancer care you and I share, in striving for.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Churchill MP