



2 February 2011
For immediate release

Damian Hinds
MP for East Hampshire

News release

Damian Hinds Voices Support for Radiotherapy with Cancer Research

Damian Hinds voiced his support for action on radiotherapy at an awareness-raising Cancer Research UK event in Parliament.

The event, held on Tuesday January 25, coincided with the Government's launch of the National Radiotherapy Awareness Initiative to improve the public's understanding of the importance of radiotherapy.

The event highlighted how radiotherapy has a bigger impact on curing cancers each year than all the new drugs put together.

Experts described how a lack of awareness about radiotherapy's importance is having a serious impact on providing world class treatment in the UK.



Damian Hinds said:

"According to Cancer Research UK, half of all cancer patients could benefit from radiotherapy but only 38 per cent are receiving it. It is imperative that everyone has access to the treatment they need, when they need it."

"Newer, more targeted radiotherapy technologies are constantly being developed and we must make them available to everyone. I know the Government will work with the NHS and organisations like Cancer Research UK to tackle all inequalities in treatment in this country and make the service amongst the best in Europe."

Hilary Tovey, Policy Manager at Cancer Research UK, said:

"Cancer Research UK believes that everyone deserves the best cancer treatment. There have been huge advances in radiotherapy in the last decade and we want the best technologies to be available to everyone who needs them, to make sure that all patients have access to the best radiotherapy treatments regardless of where they live."

"MPs have a key role to play in raising awareness of radiotherapy and in urging the government to take action. We are very grateful to Damian for helping us to spread this life-saving message."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Damian Hinds MP • House of Commons • London SW1A 0AA
0207 219 7057 damian.hinds.mp@parliament.uk www.damianhinds.com

Picture to follow separately by email

Radiotherapy means the use of 'radiation', usually X-rays, to treat illness.

It can be given in various ways: from outside the body as external radiotherapy, using X-rays, 'cobalt irradiation', electrons and more rarely other particles such as protons; from within the body as internal radiotherapy, by drinking a liquid that is taken up by cancer cells or by putting radioactive material in, or close to, the tumour.

Radiotherapy destroys the cancer cells in the treated area. Although normal cells are also affected by radiation, they are better at repairing themselves than the cancer cells.

A course of radiotherapy is usually given over a number of days or weeks. Each treatment is known as a 'fraction'.

A [Cancer Research UK report](#) estimates that only 38 per cent of cancer patients in England are getting radiotherapy although research shows that up to 50 per cent might benefit.

Cancer Research UK's research laid the foundations of modern radiotherapy, from its earliest beginnings to the present day.

Research into radiotherapy has declined significantly in the UK in recent years.

For further information please contact:

Ed Condon
0207 219 7057
condone@parliament.uk