

September 2014

Dear Guest,

I am writing to you to invite you to the inaugural parliamentary reception for **The Oesophageal Cancer Westminster Campaign**, a new patient-led initiative designed to improve the awareness and treatment of Oesophageal (gullet) cancer. This is one of the fastest rising cancers in men in the UK, with survival rates of only 1 in 10.

The Oesophageal Cancer Westminster Campaign is a group comprised of several patient groups and charities in collaboration with clinical experts, industry and families bereaved by oesophageal cancer campaigning at Westminster and throughout the NHS. The campaign aims to raise awareness and work together with policy makers and politicians to increase patient survival rates through better prevention, earlier diagnosis and increased patient access to the best treatment.

The Oesophageal Cancer Westminster Campaign has organised a parliamentary lobby and reception on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October at the Houses of Parliament**.

- **David Heyes MP will be hosting a rally meeting in committee room 15 between 12.30pm and 1.30pm.** The purpose of the meeting is for supporters to gain insight into how to best communicate with parliamentarians. This will be followed by an opportunity for supporters to attend a prearranged meeting with their local MP or to request to meet with their local MP on the day.
- **The Parliamentary reception will take place on the terrace of the House of Commons, between 4pm and 6pm and will be hosted by Mike Thornton MP.** The reception will include a wide range of speakers with a clinical and patient focus. It will enable parliamentarians and stakeholders to discuss the provision surrounding oesophageal cancer and how stakeholders can work together with government to reduce the mortality rate.

The Government has highlighted the need to improve cancer survival rates to bring us in-line with EU average rates. One of the key elements of indicators related to cancer in the NHS Outcomes Framework is earlier diagnosis – this relates to improvements needed in undiagnosed Barrett’s oesophagus, the major precursor lesion that leads to oesophageal cancer. Public awareness of the condition and its symptoms is low; therefore the recent pilot study for awareness of Oesophago-Gastric Cancer in the North East - Be Clear on Cancer – is an important opportunity for the NHS.

Please RSVP by contacting William O’Brien at [william@pbpoliticalconsulting.com](mailto:william@pbpoliticalconsulting.com) or on 02077356963. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Underwood  
Interim Chair – Oesophageal Cancer Westminster Campaign



### **Information for the day**

Access to the Houses of Parliament will be through the main security entrance at Cromwell Green, next to St. Stephen's entrance.

### **Directions for rally attendees**

After coming through the public entrance (Cromwell Green) one will be guided through Westminster Hall, at the top of the steps, turn left through St Stephen's hall into Central Lobby (a large octagonal hall). From here, one should walk directly through Central Lobby in which you will be greeted by policemen who will direct you to the committee corridor which will contain amongst other rooms, committee room 15.

### **Directions for meeting with your MP**

After coming through the public entrance (Cromwell Green) one will be guided through Westminster Hall, at the top of the steps, turn left through St Stephen's Hall into Central Lobby (a large octagonal hall). You should notify a House of Commons representative that you are meeting your MP either pre-arranged or to arrange using a Green Card for a meeting.

### **Directions for the parliamentary reception**

After coming through the public entrance (Cromwell Green) one will be guided through Westminster Hall, at the top of the steps, turn left through St Stephen's Hall into Central Lobby (a large octagonal hall). From here, one should walk directly through Central Lobby in which you will be greeted by policemen who will direct you to House of Commons Banqueting corridor. At the bottom of the stairs, one should turn right and walk all the way down the corridor, the Terrace entrance will be to the left.

### **Security at Westminster**

Security to enter the Palace of Westminster will be at the main entrance at Cromwell Green. One simply needs to bring a printed copy of the electronic invitation to the Reception and/or the Lobby/Rally. Queues to get through security can be quite variable. We advise at least 30 minutes to get through security.

For questions with regard to invitations please contact [William@pbpoliticalconsulting.com](mailto:William@pbpoliticalconsulting.com).

[The Palace of Westminster Map](#)