



## Briefing to Parliamentarians

July 2018

# A momentous year – let's make it count!

Since the beginning of 2018, key Government reports have been published, powerful policy announcements have been made, and the promise of a significant uplift in Government and charity investment towards tackling brain tumours has been secured.

New champions for the cause of brain tumour patients have come to the fore, creating even more compelling forces for change, which include the late Dame Tessa Jowell who devoted her final months towards highlighting the plight of brain tumour patients and the need for more progressive treatments.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours (APPGBT) has been campaigning for change for over 12 years and is delighted to have played a key role in enabling the wider community to reach this point. The APPGBT will continue to play an important role over the coming years by raising awareness and ensuring all these announcements result in a tangible difference to brain tumour patients and their families.

### New reports

In February 2018, the Department of Health and Social Care Task and Finish Working Group report on brain tumour research was finally published. This set out a number of recommendations and acknowledged strongly the need for greater innovation and collaboration. The report concluded that dedicated brain tumour research centres are effective in underpinning research capability.

The same month saw the UK Brain Cancer Mission launched with the backing of the Eliminate Cancer Initiative (ECI) and an accompanying Blueprint. This initiative, developed with the input of Tessa Jowell and with a global outlook, seeks to unify efforts and resources with a focus on progressing clinical trials, improving the patient experience, enhancing the application of data and creating an international funding drive.

### Funding announcements

These new reports were met with new funding commitments from partners across the research sector. The UK Government confirmed it would make a contribution specifically for brain tumour research via the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) of £20 million. Upon the passing on Tessa Jowell, this was doubled to £40 million.

Cancer Research UK, in recognition of brain tumours being a cancer with continuing poor survival rates, announced the intent to invest a further £25 million in brain tumours. The UK Brain Cancer Mission – now Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission – has an explicit objective to streamline and significantly increase funds channelled towards improving outcomes for brain tumour patients.

### Frameworks for the future

The Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission, formed by Lord O'Shaughnessy, its Steering Group and associates, are taking action to lead more progressive outcomes for brain tumour patients over the coming years. Other groups, charities, partnerships and research initiatives, will continue to champion the cause. The APPGBT will play a key role in holding these groups to account.



The Secretariat of the APPG on Brain Tumours is provided by:

## APPGBT Inquiry into the economic and social impacts of brain tumours

This Spring, the APPGBT launched an Inquiry into the economic and social impacts of brain tumours. The Inquiry has already gathered significant and compelling evidence from the public and from a number of expert witnesses including cancer charities, clinicians and UK Government representatives.

The Inquiry Panel, consisting of Parliamentarians and representatives of brain tumour organisations, has been engaging directly with the community, receiving over 200 public submissions from patients and their families outlining impacts. They have identified numerous financial impacts including early retirement and costs such as hospital parking, as well as numerous less tangible impacts.

We are expecting the Inquiry’s recommendations in its final report to call for better support for brain tumour patients by mitigating the financial pressures their families face, and to shine a spotlight on the ongoing need to prioritise better cures for brain tumour patients.

## The work of the APPG on Brain Tumours in 2018-2019

- Driving forward the recommendations of the APPGBT Inquiry into the social and economic impacts of brain tumours – we envisage a report launch in the autumn of 2018
- Holding the UK Government and others to account over:
  - The actions and progress arising from the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission and the Task and Finish Working Group report on brain tumour research
  - The new funding commitments and initiatives announced in 2018; we will seek regular Ministerial representation at APPGBT meetings to provide updates and Q&A on progress secured
- Fostering collaborative working on shared issues with other Cancer and allied APPGs (e.g. drug discovery, innovation, clinical trials, workforce, the NHS England Cancer Strategy and the power of patient data)
- Providing a spotlight for topical issues, including those relevant to children and young people, and a platform for sharing innovation



**Brain Tumour Research**

Together we will find a cure

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The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours receives assistance from PB Political Consulting and The Brain Tumour Charity for the purposes of organising meetings.

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