

Department of Health and Social Care

Response Regarding Rachel's Rule Campaign

Date: 2 December 2025

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for your correspondence of 16 October on behalf of your constituent Mr Stuart Ball about the Rachel's Rule campaign. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I was very sorry to read of the death of Mr Ball's wife, Rachel. I can only imagine how difficult this has been for Mr Ball and his family. I understand the devastating impact that cancer can have on an individual and on their family, friends, and community. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to Mr Ball and his family and I appreciate his concerns and suggestions.

The Department recognises the importance of timely diagnosis and intervention for people at risk of cancer. Predictive genetic testing is available through the NHS Genomic Medicine Service (GMS), which operates via the NHS Genomic Laboratory Hubs under the oversight of the National Genomic Test Directory. This ensures that patients with relevant clinical indications, including those with multiple red-flag cancers or family histories suggestive of hereditary cancer syndromes, can access appropriate genetic testing and counselling.

Furthermore, the NHS England Genomics Strategy, published in October 2022, sets out a clear vision for embedding genomics across the health service over the next five years. The strategy aims to expand predictive and preventative care, supporting earlier diagnosis and improved outcomes for patients at hereditary cancer risk.

More recently, the National Disease Registration Service launched the National Inherited Cancer Predisposition Register (NICPR) on 30 June. The NICPR covers a wide range of cancers for which there is an increased inherited risk and aims to identify high-risk individuals eligible for targeted screening and surveillance.

Additionally, the ten-year health plan commits to further expanding the Genomic Medicine Service and developing a new population health genomics service. This will combine genomics, new diagnostics and predictive analytics to enable earlier identification and intervention for individuals at cancer risk.

Further information on how the Department will tackle cancers and improve patient outcomes will be set out in the forthcoming national cancer plan.

Yours sincerely,

Ashley Dalton MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Public Health and Prevention