

Department of Health and Social Care

Ministerial Correspondence Response (Redacted for Publication)

Date: 16 February 2026

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for your further correspondence regarding the Rachel's Rule campaign.

The Department recognises the importance of timely identification and management of hereditary cancer risk. NHS England manages hereditary cancer risk through referral to specialist cancer genetics services, based on criteria set out in the National Genomic Test Directory.

Jess's Rule was recently launched as a patient safety initiative encouraging general practitioners to review and reconsider cases where diagnosis has not been reached after three consultations or where symptoms have escalated.

Genomic testing in England is delivered through the NHS Genomic Medicine Service (GMS), via a national network of NHS Genomic Laboratory Hubs, operating under the National Genomic Test Directory.

The Government's 10-Year Health Plan proposes the expansion of predictive and preventative genomics through a new population health genomics service, supporting earlier identification of individuals at hereditary cancer risk.

NHS England is undertaking a transformation programme to support Clinical Genetics Services, including review of referral, triage and management guidance for individuals and families with hereditary cancer risk.

Clinical Genetics Services provide pathways for germline testing and ongoing surveillance for individuals identified with inherited cancer predisposition variants.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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