

Ashley Dalton MP
Minister for Public Health & Prevention
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EU

CC: The Baroness Merron, Minister for Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health

20 June 2025

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you as a group of committed clinicians, academics, Royal College representatives, charities, and patient advocates, to offer you our support in meeting a new national goal to eliminate cervical cancer.

In particular, we:

- Welcome [Cervical cancer elimination by 2040 – plan for England](#), published in March by NHS England (NHSE), for setting broad ambitions to bring incidence below 4 per 100,000.
- Request clarity around accountability for delivery of the implementation of the plan, including clear responsibilities, metrics, timelines and funding allocations.
- Seek your assurances that the impetus for its implementation will remain, and the expertise of those who developed the plan, is not lost as the integration of NHSE into DHSC takes place.
- Suggest that DHSC creates an expert stakeholder steering group for the plan, akin to the Cervical Cancer Elimination Expert Group in Scotland.

On the latter, it became clear during a roundtable held by the ACCESS Consensus Group on 30th April that there is much energy, enthusiasm, and commitment from diverse stakeholders to further shape implementation of the elimination plan. Some of the key themes and ideas discussed were:

- An equity-based approach to milestones focused on driving up HPV vaccination and cervical screening rates amongst the most underserved groups.
- Improved data collection of protected characteristics—including, gender, ethnicity, and disability—of those who do and don't attend screening, and coproducing with those groups solutions to overcome the specific barriers they face.
- Maximising innovative communication methods and understanding the influence of social media on decisions to get vaccinated or screened.
- Getting the messaging right on the benefits and limitations of HPV self-sampling, if and when this is rolled out in the screening programme.

Many of these themes are covered in a new [consensus statement](#) launched at the roundtable.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your officials in the near future to ensure this important strand of women's healthcare remains a priority. In the first instance please contact Mark Davis, ACCESS UK secretariat, at secretariat@accesscq.org.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories

Athena Lamnisis, Co-Chair, ACCESS Consensus Group, and CEO, The Eve Appeal

Kate Lancaster, Chief Executive, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Dr Janet Barter, President, Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare

Lynn Woolsey, Chief Nursing Officer, Royal College of Nursing

Louise Ansari, Chief Executive, Healthwatch England

Dr Alison May Berner, Academic Clinical Lecturer in Medical Oncology, Queen Mary University of London

Dr Matejka Rebolj, Senior Epidemiologist, Queen Mary University of London

Dr Aamena Salar, GP with specialist interest in women's health, Modality Partnerships

Professor Jo Waller, Professor of Cancer Behavioural Science, Queen Mary University of London

