

Debate Pack
7 March 2023
Number CDP 2023/0057

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Brain tumour research funding

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1 Background

A debate will be held in the House of Commons Chamber on Thursday 9 March 2023 on brain tumour research funding. The debate will be opened by Derek Thomas MP.

1.1 Brain tumours

A brain tumour is a growth of abnormal cells in the brain. Cancer Research UK reports that there are over 100 types of brain tumour and provides a list on its website.¹ ‘Primary’ brain tumours begin in the brain, while ‘secondary’ brain tumours are those that began somewhere else in the body and have since spread to the brain.

Tumours are graded according to how fast they grow and whether they are cancerous. A low-grade brain tumour (grade 1 and 2) is non-cancerous, tends to grow slowly, and may not cause symptoms for a long time. They are sometimes referred to as a ‘benign’ brain tumour.

A high-grade brain tumour (grade 3 and 4) is a cancerous growth in the brain. These tend to grow quicker than low-grade brain tumours, can be more difficult to treat and are more likely to return after treatment.² Macmillan Cancer Support explains that high-grade, [‘malignant’ brain tumours](#) can “cause problems by spreading into and damaging nearby areas of the brain” and, in some instances, the spinal cord.³

Symptoms, treatment and prognosis will depend on many factors, including where the tumour is in the brain, its size and grade. The NHS reports that “around 15 out of every 100 people with a cancerous brain tumour will survive for 10 years or more after being diagnosed”.⁴

More information on brain cancer and brain tumours can be found at:

- [What are brain tumours? | Cancer Research UK](#) (January 2023)
- [Malignant brain tumour \(brain cancer\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#) (April 2021)
- [Brain tumours | Macmillan Cancer Support](#) (October 2021)

¹ [What are brain tumours? | Cancer Research UK](#), 18 January 2023; [Types of brain tumours | Cancer Research UK](#), not dated, accessed 1 March 2023

² [Brain tumours – NHS](#), 3 February 2020

³ [Grading of brain tumours | Macmillan Cancer Support](#), 1 October 2021

⁴ [Brain tumours – NHS, 3 February 2023](#)

Incidence of brain tumours

Data from Cancer Research UK, for the period 2016-18, states that there were around “12,300 new brain, other CNS [Central Nervous System] and intracranial tumours cases in the UK every year”. This represented 3% of all cancer cases for the period, making it the 9th most common cancer in the UK.⁵ According to the charity Brain Tumour Research, brain tumours “kill more children and adults under 40 than any other cancer”.⁶

1.2

Research funding for brain tumours

Petitions Committee report, 2016

In 2016, the Petitions Committee reported on [Funding for research into brain tumours](#) (opens PDF). The inquiry followed an [e-petition on the matter](#), signed by over 120,000 people, which called on the Government and medical research charities to “raise investment to £30-£35 million a year” for brain cancer research. At that time, [the Government reported that 1.5% of research funding for cancer](#) (from public and charitable sources) directly supported brain tumour research; approximately £7.7 million. The Petitions Committee concluded that this was insufficient and that underfunding had held back researchers from being able to make “significant advances” in their understanding of brain tumours.⁷

The Committee also questioned the Government’s approach to identifying unmet needs for research funding, stating that it must “ensure greater oversight of research funding” to “address gaps”.⁸

Government funding for medical research is typically channelled through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR - which is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care) and by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI – whose funding comes via the science budget of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology). The Government stated in response to the e-petition that NIHR funding is “not ring-fenced for cancer research or for research on brain tumours or other types of cancer” but rather is awarded based on the “quality of scientific activity”.⁹

⁵ [Brain, other CNS and intracranial tumours statistics | Cancer Research UK](#), not dated, accessed 28 February 2023

⁶ [Public unaware of biggest childhood cancer killer \(braintumourresearch.org\)](#), 13 April 2017

⁷ Petitions Committee, [Funding for research into brain tumours](#), First Report of Session 2015–16, HC 554, 14 March 2016, paras 69-70

⁸ Petitions Committee, [Funding for research into brain tumours](#), First Report of Session 2015–16, HC 554, 14 March 2016, para 101

⁹ Government Response to [Fund more research into brain tumours, the biggest cancer killer of under-40s - Petitions \(parliament.uk\)](#), 7 September 2015

In its Response to the Petitions Committee's 2016 report the Government agreed that "an increase in the level of brain tumour research [was] crucial in order to achieve better outcomes for patients and their families" and added that it was "committed to work to achieve this in partnership with medical research charities, the NHS and industry".¹⁰ During a Westminster Hall debate on the report, the Government also committed to establish a "task and finish group" on brain tumour research to discuss how to the "increase the level and impact of research into brain tumours".¹¹

The [Task and Finish Group published its report in February 2018](#). It noted that one of the principal issues facing brain tumour research was the "relative lack of fundable research applications currently being received" by funding bodies. The Group thus focused on "identifying opportunities for removing barriers and generating additional high quality research applications", rather than looking solely at the availability of funding.¹² Its recommendations included establishing dedicated brain tumour research centres, as well as for funders to state explicitly in funding calls that applications for funding for brain tumour research are particularly welcome.¹³

Increases in funding for brain tumour research since 2016

To coincide with the publication of Task and Finish Group's report in 2018, the Government and Cancer Research UK announced that they would spend a total of £45 million, over a five year period, on brain tumour research:

Health and Social Care Secretary Jeremy Hunt has announced that an estimated £20 million in funding will be invested through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) over the next 5 years. The funding will start with a formal call to research teams to put forward new proposals, to access NIHR funding in April.

In addition, Cancer Research UK will invest £25 million in research into brain tumours over the next 5 years. This is on top of £13 million each year on the research and development of cancer treatments.

Cancer Research UK's funding will support 2 new specialised centres:

- The Children's Brain Tumour Centre of Excellence, based at the University of Cambridge
- The Institute of Cancer Research, London

¹⁰ [House of Commons - Funding for research into brain tumours: Government Response to the Petitions Committee's First Report of Session 2015–16 - Petitions Committee](#), 15 June 2016

¹¹ [HC Deb, 18 April 2016, c258WH; Report of the Task and Finish Working Group on Brain Tumour Research](#) (opens PDF), February 2018, p10

¹² [Brain tumour research: task and finish working group report - GOV.UK](#), February 2018, p7

¹³ [Brain tumour research: task and finish working group report - GOV.UK](#), February 2018, p7-8

These centres bring together world-leading experts to discover and develop new treatments to tackle brain tumours in children. A centre focusing on adult brain tumours will open later this year.¹⁴

Four years earlier, in 2014, [Cancer Research UK identified brain tumours in its Research Strategy](#) (opens PDF) as one of its “cancers of unmet need” and a strategic priority for the organisation.¹⁵

In May 2018, Government doubled its initial investment in brain tumour/cancer research from £20 million to £40 million in honour of Tessa Jowell.¹⁶ The Department of Health and Social Care later confirmed that the £40 million came from the NIHR budget and that the NIHR was responsible for its allocation and spend.¹⁷ More recently, in response to a Parliamentary Question in April 2022, the Government stated that the NIHR had:

funded all applications [following the £40 million announcement] which have been fundable in open competition. However, this remains a challenging scientific area with a relatively small research community. We are reviewing ways to increase research capacity to deliver more fundable applications.¹⁸

Spending data

During follow-up oral evidence sessions on [Brain tumour and childhood cancer research](#), the Petitions Committee heard in May 2021 from the then Health Minister, Lord Bethell, that “£8.8 million [had] so far been allocated by the NIHR for dedicated brain tumour research”, though it was noted that this did not include spending on cancer research infrastructure. Mike Batley from the Department of Health and Social Care gave the following explanation to the Committee as to why more of the £40 million had not yet been spent:

[...] the NIHR is there to translate basic new discoveries in science into treatments, through our translational, our clinical and our applied research. That very much depends on the earlier end of the pipeline—the new discoveries and new basic science that can then be translated into treatments. [...] The lack of new basic science discoveries is causing a bit of a blockage in the pipeline, which means there is not as much that we can fund, from NIHR’s perspective, to turn things into actual treatments.¹⁹

Giving evidence to the Backbench Business Committee in February 2023, Derek Thomas MP noted that the five-year anniversary of the Government’s

¹⁴ [Brain cancer research to receive £45 million funding - GOV.UK](#), 22 February 2018

¹⁵ [Our priorities for brain tumour research | Cancer Research UK](#), not dated, accessed 1 March 2023

¹⁶ [Government announces £40 million for brain cancer research in honour of Tessa Jowell - GOV.UK, 14 May 2018](#)

¹⁷ Q19, [Oral evidence - Funding for research into brain tumours: follow-up - 15 Jan 2019](#)

¹⁸ [PQ 154446](#) [on Brain Cancer: Research], 25 April 2022

¹⁹ Q32 - Petitions Committee [Oral evidence: Brain tumour and childhood cancer research](#), HC 242, 27 May 2021

£40 million investment in brain tumour research was fast approaching. He stated, however, that “only £10 million of that £40 million has been spent”.²⁰

Further detail on this point is provided in a report published by the [All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours](#) (opens PDF) in late February 2023. It concluded that, nearly five years on from the major research funding announcements on brain tumours:

there are no new treatments and the five-year survival for patients is still just 12%. Brain tumours remain the biggest cancer killer of children and adults under the age of 40. Of the £40 million Government commitment, on 25th January 2023 just £15 million had been awarded since June 2018, with £6 million of this not easily identifiable as relevant to brain tumours.²¹

When approached for comment by The Guardian newspaper, the Department of Health and Social Care stated:

The £40m we have allocated has so far supported 12 research programmes, including analysing of the effectiveness of different radiotherapies and a treatment for epilepsy in patients with brain tumours. We have also invested in infrastructure support and we’re taking action to grow the research community, such as workshops for researchers and training for clinicians, to encourage further studies.²²

Data from the National Cancer Research Institute – [a partnership of Government and large charity research funders](#) – indicates that, in total, the partners spent £17.6 million in the financial year 2020/21 on brain tumour research.²³ The APPG’s analysis of this funding indicates that the Medical Research Council and the NIHR contributed “£1 million each with Cancer Research UK contributing £13 million”.²⁴

A separate review, conducted by the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission, similarly found that most of the research funding received by ‘Tessa Jowell Centres of Excellence’ was provided by Cancer Research UK:

Centres reported ~£100 million of investments in brain cancer research between 2016 and 2020/21. Most of this funding was provided by Cancer Research UK (CRUK), with significant additional funding from Brain Tumour Research and the Brain Tumour Charity. Seventy-five percent of all research activity came from these three largest funders revealing a strong dependency on charitable funders. Eleven percent of funding originated from UK

²⁰ Q1, Backbench Business Committee, [Representations: Backbench Debates](#), 7 February 2023

²¹ All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours, [Brain Tumours. Pathway to a Cure – breaking down the barriers](#) (opens PDF), February 2023, p7

²² [UK spent only £15m on brain tumour research after promising £40m | Cancer | The Guardian](#), 27 February 2023

²³ [Spend by Research & Disease Site - NCRI](#), accessed 1 March 2023

²⁴ All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours, [Brain Tumours. Pathway to a Cure – breaking down the barriers](#) (opens PDF), February 2023, p7

government sources (EPSRC, MRC, UKRI) and only 3% of basic and translational research funding was awarded by pharmaceutical companies.²⁵

‘Tessa Jowell Centres of Excellence’ is a national initiative which aims to identify, recognise, and support specialist NHS Centres to provide high quality brain cancer care and research.²⁶

The Government also provided research funding information in response to a Parliamentary Question, answered in December 2022:

The Department [of Health and Social Care] invests £1 billion per year in health research through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). The NIHR’s research expenditure for all cancers in 2020/21 was £73.5 million and 7.3% was spent on brain tumour research. Information on expenditure in 2021/22 will be available in 2023.²⁷

All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Brain Tumours

In February 2023, the APPG on Brain Tumours published a report on [‘Pathway to a Cure – breaking down the barriers’](#) (opens PDF). The report sets out the findings of the APPG’s inquiry into what it describes as the “lack of progress” in deploying the research funding for brain tumours announced by the Government in 2018. Several barriers to accessing research funding were identified, including:

- Insufficient funding for ‘discovery’ research (research that aims to identify new knowledge / insights into some of the fundamental processes that underpin biology):

The inquiry uncovered that there is a gap in research funding along the pathway of discovery, translational and clinical research. Scientists and Clinicians told the inquiry panel that NIHR funding calls were disproportionately at the clinical end of the research pipeline.

However, due to the complex nature of the subject area, there are currently relatively few opportunities for studies in patients. In order to generate new compounds or approaches to test in clinical studies, discovery research must be conducted into the biology of brain tumours. This would develop understanding of the causes and behaviours of brain tumours, why they can become aggressive and take lives within 10 months of diagnosis and provide an understanding of how the biological drivers of malignancy could be targeted.

- Unable to access funding for translational research (the process whereby “ideas and discoveries from emerging research projects are

²⁵ [NHS Brain Cancer Healthcare and Research: Does It Matter Where You Are Treated? | Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission \(TJBCM\)](#), February 2023, p25

²⁶ [TJ Centres of Excellence | Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission \(TJBCM\)](#), not dated, accessed 6 March 2023

²⁷ [PQ HL4292](#) [on Brain Cancer: Research], 20 December 2022

translated into products of therapeutic value for human patient benefit”).²⁸

The APPG made six main recommendations in its report, including:

- Government to recognise brain tumour research as a critical priority; developing a strategic plan for adequately resourcing and funding discovery, translational and clinical research by 2024.
- Translational Research – MRC [Medical Research Council] to make a further £35 million available to improve trial readiness by 2024.
- Clinical Research – Revisit the NIHR [National Institute for Health and Care Research] highlight notice and make it easier to access the unspent £25 million of the £40 million commitment.²⁹

²⁸ [About Us | Translational Research Office \(TRO\) - UCL – University College London](#), not dated, accessed 6 March 2023

²⁹ APPG on Brain Tumours, '[Pathway to a Cure – breaking down the barriers](#)' (opens PDF), February 2023, p10-11

2 Parliamentary material

2.1 Debate

Commons e-petition debate: [Childhood Cancer Outcomes](#)

HC Deb 26 April 2022 | Vol 712 c626-

2.2 PQs

[Brain Cancer: Research](#)

Asked by: Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to increase research into the (1) causes of, and (2) treatments for, brain tumours.

Answering member: Lord Markham | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

In May 2018, the Government announced £40 million over five years for brain cancer research through the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission via the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). While the NIHR requested funding applications on brain tumour research, this a difficult area with a relatively small research community. The NIHR will provide funding for research training elements of the Tessa Jowell Fellowships to train specialist brain tumour oncologists.

HL Deb 20 December 2022 | PQ HL4293

[Brain Cancer: Research](#)

Asked by: Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask His Majesty's Government what percentage of the funding they provide for cancer research is spent on brain tumours.

Answering member: Lord Markham | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

The Department invests £1 billion per year in health research through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). The NIHR's research expenditure for all cancers in 2020/21 was £73.5 million and 7.3% was spent

on brain tumour research. Information on expenditure in 2021/22 will be available in 2023.

HL Deb 20 December 2022 | PQ HL4292

Topical Questions

Asked by: Holly Mumby-Croft

T8. Many in the Scunthorpe area will remember David Hopkins, whom we sadly lost to glioblastoma. Alongside earlier diagnosis, we need improved access to the £40 million the Government have committed to brain tumour research. Will my right hon. Friend look carefully at the findings of the ongoing investigation by the all-party parliamentary group on brain tumours and do all he can to speed up access to this research funding?

Answered by: Sajid Javid | Department: Health and Social Care

My sincere condolences to the family of David Hopkins. Cancer diagnosis and treatment is an absolute priority, which is why we are putting £2.3 billion into campaigns and new initiatives to encourage people with suspected cancer to come forward. I am pleased that the referral rate is currently 120% of the pre-pandemic level. I will, of course, read the APPG's report. I visited the largest neurology hospital in the UK last month with my hon. Friend the Member for Hexham (Guy Opperman), and I am determined to ensure that our investment in this vital area of research goes straight to the frontline.

HC Deb 14 June 2022 | Vol 716 c149

Brain Cancer: Health Services

Asked by: Lord Randall of Uxbridge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve outcomes for brain tumour cancer patients.

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to reduce the disparity in survival rates for brain tumour patients compared to other higher funded cancers.

Answering member: Lord Kamall | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

In May 2018, the Government announced a £40 million investment over five years for brain tumour research as part of the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). Since

then, the NIHR has received 69 applications for research funding in **relation** to brain tumours, with 10 applications funded and seven applications under consideration. All applications that are fundable have been funded.

We anticipate that the use of 5-aminolevulinic acid will increase which will benefit brain tumour patients. This is a brain cancer treatment used to assist surgeons to differentiate between tumour and normal brain tissue, increasing the amount of tumour resected during surgery.

HL Deb 28 April 2022 | PQ HL6884; PQ HL6886

[Brain Cancer: Research](#)

Asked by: Nichols, Charlotte

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will commit to (a) reviewing and (b) increasing the allocation of funding for brain tumour research.

Answering member: Maria Caulfield | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

As with other Government funders of health research, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) does not allocate funding for specific disease areas. The level of research expenditure in a particular area is determined by factors including scientific potential and the number of successful funding applications.

In May 2018, the Government announced £40 million over five years for brain tumour research as part of the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission, through the NIHR. The NIHR has subsequently funded all applications which have been fundable in open competition. However, this remains a challenging scientific area with a relatively small research community. We are reviewing ways to increase research capacity to deliver more fundable applications.

HC Deb 25 April 2022 | PQ 154446

[Brain Cancer: Research](#)

Asked by: Malhotra, Seema

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department has taken to encourage research into (a) causes of and (b) treatments for brain cancer.

Answering member: Maria Caulfield | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

As part of the establishment of the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission (TJBCM) the Department announced £40 million over five years for brain tumour research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). In 2018, the NIHR released a public announcement to the research community making clear the desire to receive brain tumour research funding applications. However, we rely on researchers to submit high-quality research proposals, which includes the causes of treatment for brain tumours.

Working with the TJBCM, we have held workshops to support and encourage the research community in submitting more fundable research applications to the NIHR. We will also provide funding for the research training elements of the Tessa Jowell Fellowships to train specialist brain tumour oncologists and increase the research community in this area.

The recent designation of Tessa Jowell Centres of Excellence aims to unite professional, patient, charity and Government groups to share information and establish programmes which will lead ultimately to a cure for brain tumours. Additionally, the Tessa Jowell Academy is a new free learning and networking platform, connecting 28 National Health Service brain tumour centres to share excellence in research, treatment and care. Hosted on an online interactive platform, members have access to resources including courses and workshops, a peer-to-peer learning service, a bespoke clinical trial finder and networking opportunities. Academy content is created by clinicians and representatives from partner organisations with support of the TJBCM based on the needs expressed by the professional brain tumour community. The Department is liaising with the Medical Research Council on initiatives to stimulate discovery science to increase the research pipeline for brain tumours.

HC Deb 25 April 2022 | PQ 153975

[Brain: Tumours](#)

Asked by: Mumby-Croft, Holly

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how much funding has been provided by the Government for site-specific brain tumour research each year in (a) 2018, (b) 2019, (c) 2020, (d) 2021 and (e) 2022 to date.

Answering member: Maria Caulfield | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

The information is not held in the format requested.

The Department funds research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The following table shows the funding provided for site-specific brain tumour research in each financial year since 2018/19. This does not include the NIHR's infrastructure spending.

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
£2.9 million	£432,000	£2.1 million	£5.3 million

The decrease in funding in 2019/20 was due to the number of unsuccessful brain tumour applications. We rely on researchers to submit high-quality funding proposals within a difficult area with a small research community. The NIHR released an announcement to the research community in April 2018, making clear the desire to receive brain tumour research funding applications. Additionally, working closely with the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission, we have held customised workshops to support the research community in submitting more fundable research applications to the NIHR. All applications which were fundable in open competition have been funded. We will also provide funding for the research training elements of the Tessa Jowell Fellowships to train specialist brain tumour oncologists and therefore increase the research community.

HC Deb 05 April 2022 | PQ 126875

[Brain: Tumours](#)

Asked by: Smith, Greg

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what progress has been made on the establishment of dedicated neuro-oncology consultant posts within the fields of neurosurgery, neurology, neuropathology, paediatrics and medical and clinical oncology, as recommended by the Task and Finish Group on Brain Tumour Research.

Answering member: Maria Caulfield | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

NHS England and NHS Improvement have worked with the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission to designate centres of excellence in the management of brain tumours. Nine centres have achieved designation in its first phase. The Mission has a workstream on training to expand the brain tumour treatment

workforce in collaboration between National Health Service bodies, Royal Colleges and charities.

All NHS services for brain tumours should be provided according to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence improving outcomes guidance which makes recommendations on workforce specialisations. NHS England and NHS Improvement expect the services commissioned to adhere to these guidelines.

HC Deb 29 March 2022 | PQ 125548

[Brain: Tumours](#)

Asked by: Thomas, Derek

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department has taken since 2018 to support the need for research and research funding into brain tumours identified by the Task and Finish Group on Brain Tumour Research 2018-2019; and what assessment his Department has made of how current funding levels for brain tumours compare to funding levels prior to 2018.

Answering member: Maria Caulfield | **Party:** Conservative Party |
Department: Department of Health and Social Care

Since 2018, the Department has supported the establishment of the Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission (TJBCM), a national convening body for all stakeholders engaged in brain tumour research, treatment and care. This unites professional, patient, charity and Governmental groups to share information and establish programmes working towards a cure for brain tumours. We have held customised workshops to support the research community to submit fundable research applications to the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). We will also provide funding for the research training elements of the Tessa Jowell Fellowships to train specialist brain tumour oncologists and increase the research community.

The Department and the TJBCM are working to improve research and care for children and adults with brain cancer. This includes the launch of the Tessa Jowell BRAIN MATRIX, a new trials platform to provide access to trials of treatments best suited to individual tumours. Additionally, the Tessa Jowell Academy is a new free learning and networking platform, connecting 28 National Health Service brain tumour centres to share excellence in research, treatment and care.

The Department is liaising with the Medical Research Council on initiatives to stimulate the research pipeline for brain tumours. The NIHR is also engaging with UK Research and Innovation. The Department also works with funding

partners such as Cancer Research UK, the Medical Research Council and brain tumour charities, for research into new scientific discoveries. No comparative assessment of funding levels for brain tumours prior to 2018 has been made.

HC Deb 28 March 2022 | PQ 127506

[Brain: Tumours](#)

Asked by: Smith, Greg

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what progress his Department has made on taking forward the recommendation of the Task and Finish Group on Brain Tumour Research to improve access for researchers to brain tumour tissue and blood samples with accompanying clinical data; and what plans his Department has to tackle that issue.

Answering member: Maria Caulfield | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

The Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission reports that over 70% of United Kingdom neuro-oncology centres now have biobanking infrastructure in place to collect samples and tissue for research. These centres are collaborating to improve tissue collection opportunities through the Tessa Jowell Academy.

HC Deb 24 February 2022 | PQ 125547

[Brain: Tumours](#)

Asked by: West, Catherine

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the number of clinical nurse specialists who specialise in brain tumours; and what steps the NHS is taking to ensure that all brain tumour patients have access to a named clinical nurse specialist.

Answering member: Edward Argar | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

No specific estimate has been made as cancer nurse specialists are not separately identifiable in the National Health Service Electronic Staff Record. As part of a £52 million investment in the cancer and diagnostics workforce in 2021/22, Health Education England is offering 250 training grants to enable existing and aspiring cancer nurse specialists to undertake additional

training to develop specialist clinical, leadership, education and research capabilities, including in relation to brain tumours.

HC Deb 24 February 2022 | PQ 125372

3

News and useful links

Brain Tumour Research

3 March 2023

[Westminster debate on brain tumour research funding](#)

Guardian

27 February 2023

[UK spent only £15m on brain tumour research after promising £40m](#)

Cancer Research UK

13 February 2023

[Better together: improving brain tumour treatment](#)

Brain Tumour Research

14 October 2022

[Applications for new MRC grant now open](#)

National Cancer Research Institute

[Brain Tumour Research Review](#)

The Brain Tumour Charity

[Research Grants](#)

Brain Tumour Research

[Research Strategy](#)

Brain tumour research funding

Cancer Research UK

[Our priorities for brain tumour research](#)

Cancer Research UK

[Research opportunities in brain cancers](#)

[Children's Brain Tumour Research Fund](#)

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[Brain Tumour Research Fund](#)

[Brain Research UK](#)

[Brain Tumour Research Campaign](#)

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