

22nd June 2015

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about Anthony Nolan's 'Destination Cure' campaign.

I believe it is highly important to increase the number of stem cell (cord blood and bone marrow) donors in the UK, so I understand and welcome the vital work undertaken by Anthony Nolan.

Bone marrow donors are recruited by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and the partner charity Anthony Nolan. Anthony Nolan and NHSBT work together to run a number of nationwide initiatives and campaigns to raise awareness of the need for donors and to increase the numbers of people signing up to become donors.

You may be interested to know that in March 2015 the Government announced an extra £3 million in additional funding for stem cell services. This funding will be used towards encouraging young adult donors as well as those from under-represented populations, such as black, Asian and ethnic minority communities who find it difficult to secure a suitable match. I am reassured that since 2010, the Government has provided a total of £19 million additional funding to improve the provision of cells in the United Kingdom.

In 2013, 258 more patients received a stem cell transplant from an unrelated donor than in 2010, which resulted in 130 lives saved.

This has only been possible because the Government has taken the difficult decision to reduce the deficit whilst continuing to increase funding in the NHS. This will help to secure a better future for Britain, where people can be confident that their NHS will be there for them – but you can only have a properly-funded NHS if you have a strong economy.

I am glad to see Anthony Nolan continuing to work with the NHS on this important issue and I wish it well with this campaign.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Alok Sharma MP