



## The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours

### Briefing to Parliamentarians – November 2022

This Briefing was produced and funded by Brain Tumour Research. This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Parliamentary Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues. The views expressed in this report are those of the Group.

## Meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours

**Room W1, Westminster Hall 16:00 – 17:00 Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

### *Tumour Treating Fields, Symptom Awareness and Inquiry Update*

#### Agenda

- Welcome from Chair, **Derek Thomas MP**
- Apologies received
- Matters arising from March/May meetings
- Introduction of Speakers
- Tumour Treating Fields
  - **Hilary Duckworth**, Novocure
- *Better Safe Than Tumour* Signs and Symptoms Campaign Update
  - **Stephanie Kleynhans** and **Kate Roberts**, The Brain Tumour Charity
- APPGBT Inquiry update
  - **Hugh Adams**, Brain Tumour Research
- AOB
- Next meeting

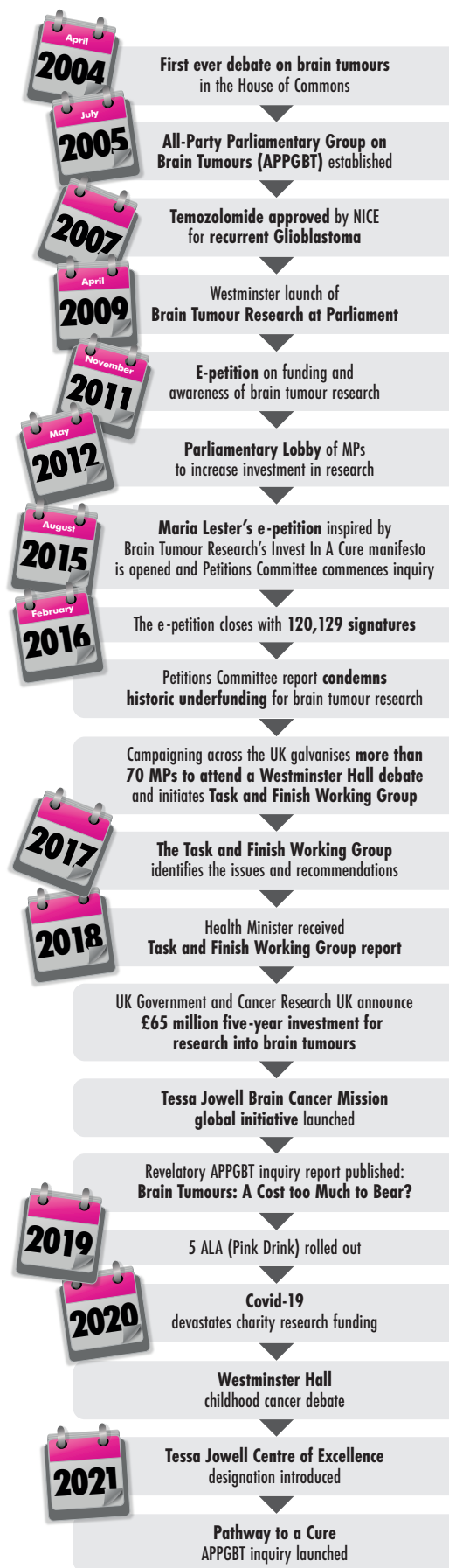
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**Brain Tumour  
Research**  
Together we will find a cure

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## Tumour Treating Fields

Tumour Treating Fields (TTF) are electric fields capable of disrupting cell division and inducing tumour cell death. Through their research, Novocure has identified the frequencies of TTF suitable for different cancers. The disruptive effect on cell division of TTF has been demonstrated in 18 types of solid tumours in culture and in 8 in vivo tumour models. Novocure believe they now have a major clinical development in glioblastoma with over 25,000 patients already treated worldwide. Hilary Duckworth, Novocure UK & Ireland Country Manager will present on the theory behind TTF, what they might offer for brain tumour patients in the UK, and what could be the route to the UK market.

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## Better Safe Than Tumour – signs and symptoms campaign update

In July 2022, The Brain Tumour Charity launched *Better Safe Than Tumour*, a campaign aimed at raising awareness amongst the public of brain tumour signs and symptoms. This campaign follows on from their previous *HeadSmart* campaign, which helped reduce the diagnosis time for children with a brain tumour from 13 weeks to 6.5 weeks.

*Better Safe Than Tumour* is targeted at both children and adults and includes an online symptom checker.

At this APPGBT meeting, The Brain Tumour Charity – which invests in research funding and provides a wide range of support and information services – will present more information about *Better Safe Than Tumour* and how you can support the campaign.

**THE  
BRAIN  
TUMOUR  
CHARITY**

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## APPGBT inquiry update

The *Pathway to a Cure – breaking down the barriers* inquiry was launched by the APPGBT at their July meeting in 2021.

The context of this inquiry is that, since the landmark Petitions Committee report into funding for brain tumour research was published in 2016, there has been another report into brain tumour research from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), oral evidence sessions from the Petitions Committee, a £40 million funding announcement from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Westminster Hall debates. Many Parliamentary Questions have been asked and comments made in debates, but funding issues for vital brain tumour research continue to be raised and barriers continue to be identified.

This inquiry aims to bring clarity to the lack of progress by scrutinising commitments made in recent years and assessing progress, as well as seeking evidence from patient, researcher, and clinician experts.

This evidence will form the basis of an official APPGBT report with key recommendations for Government.

At today's meeting Hugh Adams, Head of Stakeholder Relations at Brain Tumour Research will provide the latest update on the inquiry, following the collation of written evidence, a patient survey and six oral evidence sessions.



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## APPG on Brain Tumours Objectives

To raise awareness of the issues facing the brain tumour community in order to improve research, diagnosis, information, support, treatment and care outcomes.

### Secretariat

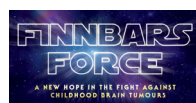
The charity Brain Tumour Research, supported by Health Comms Consulting, provides the Secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group with contributions from its Member Charities.



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## Brain Tumour Research Member Charities



The social media hashtag for the meeting is **#APPGBT**.

This Briefing and the Minutes of the meeting will be available at: <https://www.braintumourresearch.org/appgbt>