

# **PE2062/D: Introduce a National Screening Programme for Prostate Cancer**

## **Petitioner written submission, 21 November 2024**

In Scotland, 1 in 3 prostate cancer diagnoses are too late for a cure. This is higher than the rest of the UK. To suggest that it is appropriate for the Scottish Government to follow the guidance of the UK Government is not supported by the facts. By doing so, it simply means that more men in Scotland will die, when they might have been treated successfully.

As I understand it, the research study that the UK Government relies on for its position, and therefore by default, the Scottish Government's position, does not involve, or take into account any Scottish health, social, cultural characteristics.

When Sir Chris Hoy announced that his prostate cancer condition was incurable, there was a significant amount of publicity and the UK Government undertook to look again at the testing regime. A simple PSA test could have resulted in a different prognosis for him. As it turned out, eventually, it was a PSA test that identified what the issue was, albeit too late for a cure. I know of other men who have stage four prostate cancer with a shortened life prognosis which also could have been treated with a PSA test. They had no prostate cancer symptoms.

Could you at least take evidence from Scottish Government in person to examine how this situation, where men in Scotland have a different prognosis from the rest of the UK, is somehow deemed to be acceptable?

Would it not be beneficial having Prostate Cancer UK give evidence to the Committee?

Also, why not hear in person what men who have had their diagnosis too late will say to the Scottish Government's reluctance to address what is clearly a Scottish prostate cancer late diagnosis issue?