



Office for Health
Improvement
& Disparities



To: Richard Berry
Matthew Honeyman

NHS England, London
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23/04/2026

Dear Richard/Matthew

NHS response- Health Committee letter on breast cancer screening

Dear Assembly Member Best

Thank you for your letter dated 16 March 2026 in which you shared the findings and recommendations of the Health Select Committee evidence-gathering session into Breast Cancer Screening held on 22 January. We welcome the focus on breast cancer screening in London that presentation to the Health Select Committee provided to the NHS and partners.

As the NHS, we are committed to providing and commissioning high quality breast cancer screening services that are equitable in access, patient experience and outcomes. Your letter has rightly highlighted the challenges we face in London with improving, but still low uptake and the significant inequalities between different groups. The NHS and voluntary sector partners shared insights into the behavioural, cultural and structural challenges to taking up breast screening that are faced by some women in London. The NHS in London is proud of the progress that has been made in addressing some of these barriers but recognise that there remains significant work do.

The Region's cancer screening social marketing and awareness raising campaigns have been co-designed and jointly delivered by community organisations and a wide range of London partners. To deliver our commitment to working with communities to reduce health inequalities, NHS England has embedded fully-funded health promotion teams in all the six breast cancer screening organisations across London. The London Breast Screening Administration Hub has a contractual mandate to support strategic planning, analysis and provide the health intelligence required to

inform, monitor and evaluate interventions that improve uptake and address inequalities across London.

London Cancer Alliances continue to work with system partners to support women in attending breast screening through a data led approach, by providing funding through local VCSE groups, supporting the local Breast Screening Health Promotion teams in engagement events and targeted interventions and providing ring fenced funding for neighbourhood teams to improve breast, bowel, cervical and lung cancer screening uptake with their local population groups.

The NHS has published guidance on adult screening programmes for GPs and trans (transgender) and non-binary people in England based on both birth assigned and GP registered gender. [NHS population screening: information for trans and non-binary people - GOV.UK](#). The breast screening guidance is summarised below.

Trans men and non-binary people assigned female at birth

- *Registered with a GP as female*

If you are aged from 50 years up to your 71st birthday and registered with a GP as female, you will be routinely invited for breast screening

- *Registered with a GP as male*

If you are registered with a GP as male, you will not be invited for breast screening. If you have not had chest reconstruction (top surgery) and are aged 50 or over we suggest you talk to your GP. They can arrange a referral for you to have mammograms at a hospital near you.

Trans women and non-binary people assigned male at birth

- *Registered with a GP as a female*


If you are aged from 50 up to your 71st birthday and registered with a GP as female, you will be routinely invited for screening.

- *Registered with a GP as male*

If you are registered with a GP as male, you will not be invited for breast screening. If you have been on long-term hormone therapy you may be at increased risk of developing breast cancer. Your GP can arrange a referral for you to have mammograms at a hospital near you.

I hope this letter provides assurance of the NHS' continued focus on providing equitable breast screening services that meet the needs of the women of London.

Yours sincerely



Will Huxter

Regional Director of Commissioning
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Professor Kevin Fenton CBE PrFPH FRCP PhD

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