



6 March 2026

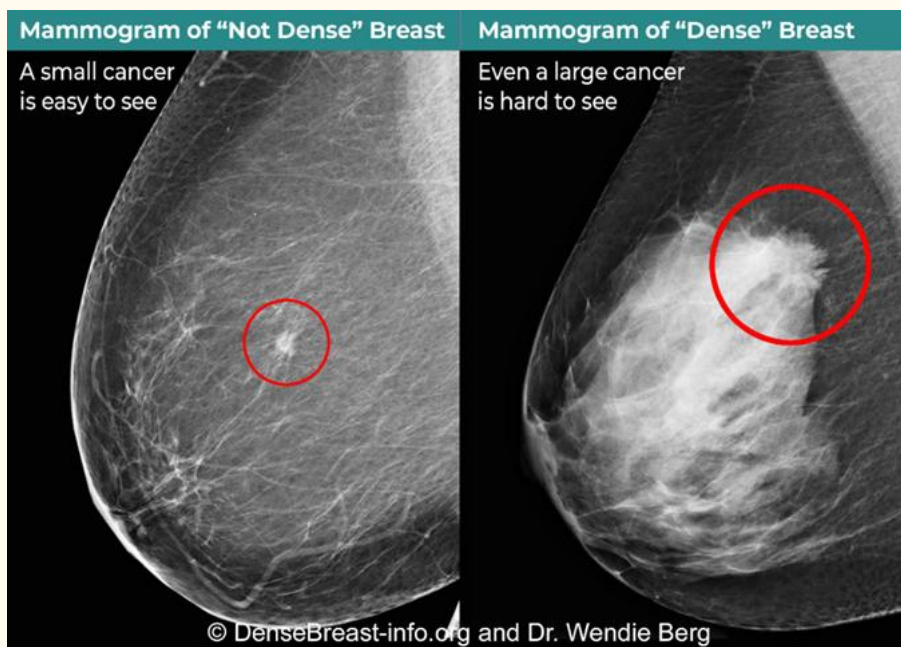
Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Informing Women of Dense Breasts After NHS Screening

As MPs representing constituents affected by breast cancer and breast cancer screening, we are writing to request urgent action in relation to the UK National Routine Breast Screening Programme.

Dense breast tissue is present in around 40% of women undergoing mammography. Standardised terminology to describe breast density has been in use for over 30 years, based on radiologists' visual assessment and computer software.

On a mammogram, dense tissue appears white or light grey, like many cancerous tumours. As a result, cancers can often be missed in women with dense breast tissue. **In the UK, it is estimated that among women attending regular screening, approximately 3,500 breast cancers each year are not detected because of breast density.**



In addition to obscuring cancers, breast density is also associated with an increased risk of developing breast cancer. These "hidden" cancers may continue to grow unnoticed and are often diagnosed at a later stage, when treatment options are more limited and outcomes are poorer. Additional imaging, such as MRI, contrast-enhanced mammography, or ultrasound, improves the detection of cancers not visible on standard mammography.

However, women attending routine NHS breast screening are not informed if they have dense breasts, nor are they routinely offered additional imaging. In the United States, federal law since 2024 requires that all women be notified following a mammogram whether their breasts are classified as “dense” or “not dense”.

International breast experts understand that research and trials to aid early detection can take years to translate into practice. Cancer does not wait.

Women in the UK deserve access to potentially life-saving information. Being informed of their breast density empowers women to have meaningful conversations with their clinicians about risk, to consider appropriate follow-up imaging and, importantly, to remain vigilant about their breast health.

Many UK breast cancer experts, including breast surgeons, recognise this issue and are increasingly encouraging women to contact their Members of Parliament to call for change.

We therefore request that you support the Dense Breast Inform campaign and consider policy changes to ensure women are informed about breast density following screening.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Barron MP
Member of Parliament for Corby and East Northamptonshire
Labour

Steve Yemm MP
Member of Parliament for Mansfield
Labour

Abtisam Mohamed MP
Member of Parliament for Sheffield Central
Labour

Adrian Ramsay MP
Member of Parliament for Waveney Valley
Green Party

Alison Hume MP
Member of Parliament for Scarborough and Whitby
Labour

Allison Gardner MP
Member of Parliament for Stoke-on-Trent South
Labour

Amanda Hack MP
Member of Parliament for North West Leicestershire
Labour

Andy McDonald MP
Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough and Thornaby East
Labour

Anneliese Midgley MP
Member of Parliament for Knowsley
Labour

Ayoub Khan MP
Member of Parliament for Birmingham Perry Barr
Independent

Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP
Member of Parliament for Clapham and Brixton Hill
Labour

Brian Leishman MP
Member of Parliament for Alloa and Grangemouth
Labour

Carla Denyer MP
Member of Parliament for Bristol Central
Green Party

Cat Eccles MP
Member of Parliament for Stourbridge
Labour

Chris Webb MP
Member of Parliament for Blackpool South
Labour

Clive Jones MP
Member of Parliament for Wokingham
Liberal Democrat

Clive Lewis MP
Member of Parliament for Norwich South
Labour

Colum Eastwood MP
Member of Parliament for Foyle
Social Democratic and Labour Party

Daisy Cooper MP
Member of Parliament for St Albans
Liberal Democrat

Daniel Francis MP
Member of Parliament for Bexleyheath and Crayford
Labour

David Baines MP
Member of Parliament for St Helens North
Labour

Elaine Stewart MP
Member of Parliament for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock
Labour

Ellie Chowns MP
Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire
Green Party

Graeme Downie MP
Member of Parliament for Dunfermline and Dollar
Labour

Grahame Morris MP
Member of Parliament for Easington
Labour

Henry Tufnell MP
Member of Parliament for Mid and South Pembrokeshire
Labour

Ian Byrne MP
Member of Parliament for Liverpool West Derby
Labour

Ian Lavery MP
Member of Parliament for Blyth and Ashington
Labour

Jess Asato MP
Member of Parliament for Lowestoft
Labour

Jim Dickson MP
Member of Parliament for Dartford
Labour

Jim Shannon MP
Member of Parliament for Strangford
Democratic Unionist Party

Jo White MP
Member of Parliament for Bassetlaw
Labour

John McDonnell MP
Member of Parliament for Hayes and Harlington
Labour

John Milne MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham
Liberal Democrat

Josh Newbury MP
Member of Parliament for Cannock Chase
Labour

Kirsteen Sullivan MP
Member of Parliament for Bathgate and Linlithgow
Labour and Co-operative

Lee Dillon MP
Member of Parliament for Newbury
Liberal Democrat

Lorraine Beavers MP
Member of Parliament for Blackpool North and Fleetwood
Labour

Luke Myer MP
Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland
Labour

Manuela Perteghella MP
Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon
Liberal Democrat

Matt Turmaine MP
Member of Parliament for Watford
Labour

Michael Wheeler MP
Member of Parliament for Worsley and Eccles
Labour

Michelle Scrogam MP
Member of Parliament for Barrow and Furness
Labour

Michelle Welsh MP
Member of Parliament for Sherwood Forest
Labour

Mike Reader MP
Member of Parliament for Northampton South
Labour

Mohammad Yasin MP
Member of Parliament for Bedford
Labour

Nadia Whittome MP
Member of Parliament for Nottingham East
Labour

Neil Duncan-Jordan MP
Member of Parliament for Poole
Labour

Olivia Blake MP
Member of Parliament for Sheffield Hallam
Labour

Patricia Ferguson MP
Member of Parliament for Glasgow West
Labour

Paul Davies MP
Member of Parliament for Colne Valley
Labour

Paula Barker MP
Member of Parliament for Liverpool Wavertree
Labour

Polly Billington MP
Member of Parliament for East Thanet
Labour

Rachael Maskell MP
Member of Parliament for York Central
Labour and Co-operative

Rachel Taylor MP
Member of Parliament for North Warwickshire and Bedworth
Labour

Richard Quigley MP
Member of Parliament for Isle of Wight West
Labour

Ruth Cadbury MP
Member of Parliament for Brentford and Isleworth
Labour

Scott Arthur MP
Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South West
Labour

Sean Woodcock MP
Member of Parliament for Banbury
Labour

Shockat Adam MP
Member of Parliament for Leicester South
Independent

Siân Berry MP
Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion
Green Party

Stella Creasy MP
Member of Parliament for Walthamstow
Labour and Co-operative

Steve Witherden MP
Member of Parliament for Montgomeryshire and Glyndŵr
Labour

Tonia Antoniazzi MP
Member of Parliament for Gower
Labour

Victoria Collins MP
Member of Parliament for Harpenden and Berkhamsted
Liberal Democrat

Wera Hobhouse MP
Member of Parliament for Bath
Liberal Democrat