



Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Thursday 15 January, 2026

Dear Wes Streeting,

We are writing to you on behalf of Breast Cancer Now, METUPUK and Make 2nds Count following the recent UK-US pharmaceuticals deal. As the UK's leading charities working to support everyone affected by incurable secondary breast cancer (also known as metastatic breast cancer), we welcome the government's commitment to increase the cost-effectiveness threshold for new medicines for the first time in over 20 years.

We're pleased this will allow the NHS in England to pay more for treatments for secondary breast cancer. Now people living with the disease urgently need to know if this will translate into access to the new and effective treatments that can keep them alive for longer.

We've long been calling for the UK government to spend more on treatments for secondary breast cancer. Since changes were made to NICE processes in 2022, including the introduction of the severity modifier, lower cost-effectiveness thresholds have jeopardised the approval of some groundbreaking new medicines for people living with secondary breast cancer.

This includes the patients who faced the devastating blow of the drug Enhertu being rejected for HER2-low secondary breast cancer on grounds of cost-effectiveness in 2024, potentially cutting thousands of women's lives short.

We understand that by April 2026 the government plans to increase the NICE cost-effectiveness thresholds used to decide if medicines can be approved for patients on the NHS in England. This rise from £20,000-£30,000 to £25,000-£35,000 will give NICE the chance to approve more new treatments for patients.

These new cost-effectiveness thresholds still fall short of allowing the NHS to spend the same amount for some medicines as before the 2022 changes. However, the increase



could be enough for end-of-life drugs like Enhertu to be approved and made available to patients.

Will you confirm Enhertu for HER2-low secondary breast cancer can be re-submitted to NICE under the new thresholds?

We want to see everyone play their part. Pharmaceutical companies will have a crucial role in ensuring these changes deliver increased access to new medicines for people living with secondary breast cancer.

We're ready to work with the government, NICE and drug companies to make sure this change gives secondary breast cancer patients access to the life-extending treatments they need and deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Rowney,
Chief Executive Officer, Breast Cancer Now

Laura Ashurst,
Chair, METUPUK

Dr Sarah Thomas,
Director of Research and Programmes, Make 2nds Count