

Kyle Dunton,
Director, Market Access and HEOR,
Daiichi Sankyo UK,
kyle.dunton@daiichisankyo.com

Anna Arent,
Head of Oncology,
AstraZeneca UK,
anna.arent@astrazeneca.com

Thursday 15 January, 2026

Dear Mr Dunton, Ms Arent,

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 welcomed the government's commitment to increase the cost-effectiveness threshold for new medicines for the first time in over 20 years.

We are now seeking urgent clarification on what this change could mean for medicines and whether it will translate into access to new and effective treatments that could keep people with secondary breast cancer alive for longer. In particular, your drug Enhertu for HER2-low secondary breast cancer.

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 your 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 some end-of-life drugs to be approved and made available to patients.

Your companies have a crucial role to play in ensuring these changes deliver increased access to new medicines for people living with secondary breast cancer.

Will you please urgently confirm whether you plan to resubmit Enhertu for HER2-low secondary breast cancer to NICE to be considered under the new cost-effectiveness thresholds?

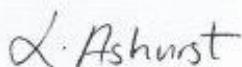
We're ready to work with the you, the government and NICE to make sure this change gives secondary breast cancer patients access to the life-extending treatments they need and deserve.

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