



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
100 Parliament Street
London
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20 March 2026

Dear Liz,

I am writing to understand what next steps will be taken to deliver the Lobular Moonshot Project, further to the question asked by my shadow colleague, Peter Fortune, on my behalf this week at DSIT oral parliamentary questions.

As you will both be aware, invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC) is the second most common form of breast cancer, accounting for approximately 15% of all breast cancer diagnoses and around 8,500 new cases annually in the United Kingdom. Despite its prevalence, ILC has been significantly under-researched relative to the more common invasive ductal variant. It is frequently missed on standard mammography, presents with fewer of the clinical signs patients and clinicians expect, carries distinct genomic characteristics, and exhibits patterns of recurrence and metastasis that are poorly understood and inadequately served by existing treatment pathways.

For all of these reasons and more, the Lobular Moon Shot project is exceptionally well supported, including by 463 MPs. As was clear yesterday, there is in effect no political disagreement on wishing to deliver this but campaigners are concerned that there remains no material progress in advancing the campaign, further to their meeting with the Health Secretary last summer.

The Department for Health and Social Care has instead referred the matter to executive agencies within the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology for a decision on whether research ought to be funded. However, when I raised the campaign with the Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation last week, he advised that it was the first time that this project had been drawn to his attention.

Further, it has been suggested in correspondence to the Moonshot Project, and in answers in the Chamber, that the quality and readiness of research proposals does not allow for the unlocking of any funding. The Moonshot Project suggests instead that there are over thirty leading experts in this cancer who have identified seven key research priorities and who stand ready to meet Ministers and advisers to develop and submit high-quality proposals.



Given the broad range of support for this project, and our shared desire to see its objectives realised, I would be grateful if you would set out when you are able to arrange a meeting bringing together your departments with the Project's team, the Manchester Breast Centre, UKRI or the MRC, NIHR and any other agencies, bodies or individuals who can advance this goal.

Campaigners and patients are particularly anxious for this to take place ahead of 22 April, when a vigil will be held across Westminster for the 22 women diagnosed each day with this insidious disease.

With best wishes,

Julia

Cc. Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Health & Social Care