

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to ask you to take action on the devastating financial impact of cancer on children, young people and their families by creating a Young Cancer Patient Travel Fund, so that families don't have to worry about mounting travel costs when they're going through treatment.

Around 4,450 children and young people are diagnosed with cancer across the UK every year. Cancer in children and young people can devastate families – physically, emotionally and financially.

Not only do families have to deal with cancer, they also have to worry about mounting travel costs: train tickets, fuel, car maintenance and taxi fares. Children and young people with cancer have to travel an average of 60 miles for treatment. This isn't by choice. Many young cancer patients have to travel to specialist cancer centres to get the care they need – they can't just go to their local hospital.

New research from CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading charity for children and young people with cancer, has found that when treatment is at its most intense, families are spending £180 on travel to and from treatment every month. As treatment for young cancer patients can go on for years, families are often plunged into debt.

Young cancer patients and their families are being let down by a hole in the system that doesn't help them access the treatment they need. This is why I am urging you to support CLIC Sargent's campaign, to establish a Young Cancer Patient Travel Fund.

With just over £5 million a year, the government could create a Young Cancer Patient Travel Fund to help families with the cost of travel to and from hospital for treatment. 30,000 members of the public have pledged their support by signing the charity's Young Cancer Patient Travel Fund petition.

Please act now and commit £5m for families financially burdened by childhood and young people's cancer by creating a Young Cancer Patient Travel Fund.

Kind regards,